

EP16.213 Transducer reprocessing to avoid infection prevention in O&G Ultrasound

Susan Campbell Westerway – Charles Sturt University Australia

Objectives: To highlight the importance of suitable transducer reprocessing post TV scan in under resourced regions to help avoid transmission of pathogens, including sexually transmitted infections.

Method: Using the results of an international survey, current popular methods of transducer reprocessing in under resourced regions were assessed for suitability for avoiding transmission of pathogens.

Results: The regions identified with the higher rates of STI's, Africa, South America & Asia, used less effective reprocessing choices including soap & water or surface wipes such as alcohol or detergent rather than the recommended high-level-disinfectant.

Conclusion: To improve the risk of infection transmission post TV scans, better access to suitable, cost-effective transducer reprocessing resources are required.

REGION	STI rate	TV transducer	reprocessing	method
		Soap & water	Surface wipe	HLD
Africa	28%	21%	24%	16%
Asia	22%	18%	25%	18%
South America	26%	18%	32%	20%



- Efficient disinfection** will reduce the risk of cross-contamination for the ultrasound patient. Steps include:
1. Cleaning → remove gross contamination such as gel with tissue or cloth / water & detergent. Ensure all grooves on the transducer are cleaned
 2. Use an approved germicidal product to remove viral & bacterial pathogen contaminants
 3. Use a high-level disinfectant on all TV transducers