

PROCEDURE

ORIGINAL DATE: 09/02

REVISION DATE: 05/13

SUBJECT: IRRIGATING SOLUTION, PREPARATION AND STORAGE OF

PURPOSE: The contamination of irrigation fluid is not dependent on time. It is an event-related risk that depends on how the solution and its container are handled.

Procedure

a) PREPARATION OF STERILE WATER IN THE HOME

1. Place a small (quart-size or smaller), closeable glass jar and its lid into a pan of boiling water.
2. Submerge the jar and lid, and boil the jar and the lid for 10 minutes.
3. Fill a separate pan with a sufficient amount of distilled water to fill the jar of water.
4. Boil the distilled water for 10 minutes.
5. Remove the jar and the lid from the pan, being careful not to touch the top of the jar or the inside of the lid, (tongs or pick-ups may be used), and allow them to cool.
6. Pour the boiled distilled water into the jar, close tightly, and store.

b) PREPARATION OF 0.9% NORMAL SALINE IN THE HOME

1. Place a small (quart-size or smaller) closeable glass jar and its lid into a pan of boiling water.
2. Submerge the jar and lid, and boil the jar and the lid for 10 minutes.
3. Fill a separate pan with approximately 1 quart of distilled water and add 1½ teaspoons of salt.
4. Boil the water for 10 minutes.
5. Remove the jar and the lid from the pan, being careful not to touch the top of the jar or the inside of the lid (tongs or pick-ups may be used), and allow them to cool.
6. Pour the boiled salt water into the jar, shake well, and store.

If a family member or clinician prepares the normal saline or sterile water, a new mixture should be prepared daily. The patient and family will be instructed never to pour any leftover solution back into the container.

c) COMMERCIALLY PREPARED IRRIGATING SOLUTIONS

1. Select a quantity of solution that will be used in a reasonable number of visits or period of time.
2. Place current date and initials on the label when the container is opened.
3. Handle the solution in a manner to avoid contamination of the fluid itself as well as the inside neck of the bottle and the inside of the cap (the cap should always be laid face up when the fluid is being used).
4. Replace the cap as soon as possible after use to avoid the potential risk of contamination.
5. Place a piece of paper over the bottle cap to detect whether the bottle has been opened since the last visit.

6. Store solution in a safe cool place out of direct sunlight that minimizes tampering by a family member who has not been trained in its use.
7. Check the irrigating solution carefully before use for foreign material, damage, leaking, mold, or fungus. If any of these problems are identified, the irrigating solution should be immediately discarded.