Recommendations by the Quality Task Group (72)

Reprocessing ophthalmologic medical devices (Part 3)

4. Flow charts

➜ **THE FLOW CHARTS** can be used as a guide when drafting SOPs.

The group of authors engaged in compiling the Guideline «Standardisation of manual cleaning and chemical disinfection» have produced ➜ **FLOW CHARTS** clearly outlining the reprocessing steps for lumened and non-lumened MDs (Fig. 1 and 2). These charts can be consulted as a guide when drafting explicit SOPs for instruments.
Please refer to Quality Task Group Recommendations No. 66 and 67 when using ultrasound for reprocessing.
Regular staff training as well as activity-related documentation are needed, and proof of training must be furnished.

5. Procurement of new medical devices

➜ **BEFORE PROCURING** new MDs feasability of reprocessing must be reviewed, and it must be evaluated whether the entire process is advisable in an economic and ecological sense.

When ➜ **PROCURING** new medical devices one must ensure that these will tolerate automated cleaning using an alkaline agent as well as thermal disinfection. Furthermore, the instruments should be able to withstand steam disinfection.
Before taking any decisions on reprocessing, apart from a critical review of feasibility, one should also elucidate whether the entire process is advisable in an economic and ecological sense. Already before purchasing a medical device, it is recommended that some thought be given to how it can be reprocessed and to involve users and those persons responsible for reprocessing in the decision to procure a new medical device [4] Single-use devices might be a better option.

6. References

1 Empfehlung von RKI und BfArM: Anforderungen an die Hygiene bei der Aufbereitung von Medizinprodukten BGBl 44 (2001): 1115–1126.
2 Guideline Compiled by the DGKH, DGSV and AKI for Validation and Routine Monitoring of Automated Cleaning and Disinfection Processes for Heat-Resistant Medical Devices as Well as Advice on Selecting Washer-Disinfectors. Zentr Steril 2007; Suppl. 2.
3 U. Roider, W. Michels: Ausmaß der Proteinkontamination bei ophthalmologischen Instrumenten nach Eingriffen; aseptica 01, 2008: 8–9.
4 Empfehlung von RKI und BfArM: Anforderungen an die Hygiene bei der Aufbereitung von Medizinprodukten. BGBl 44 (2001): 1116.

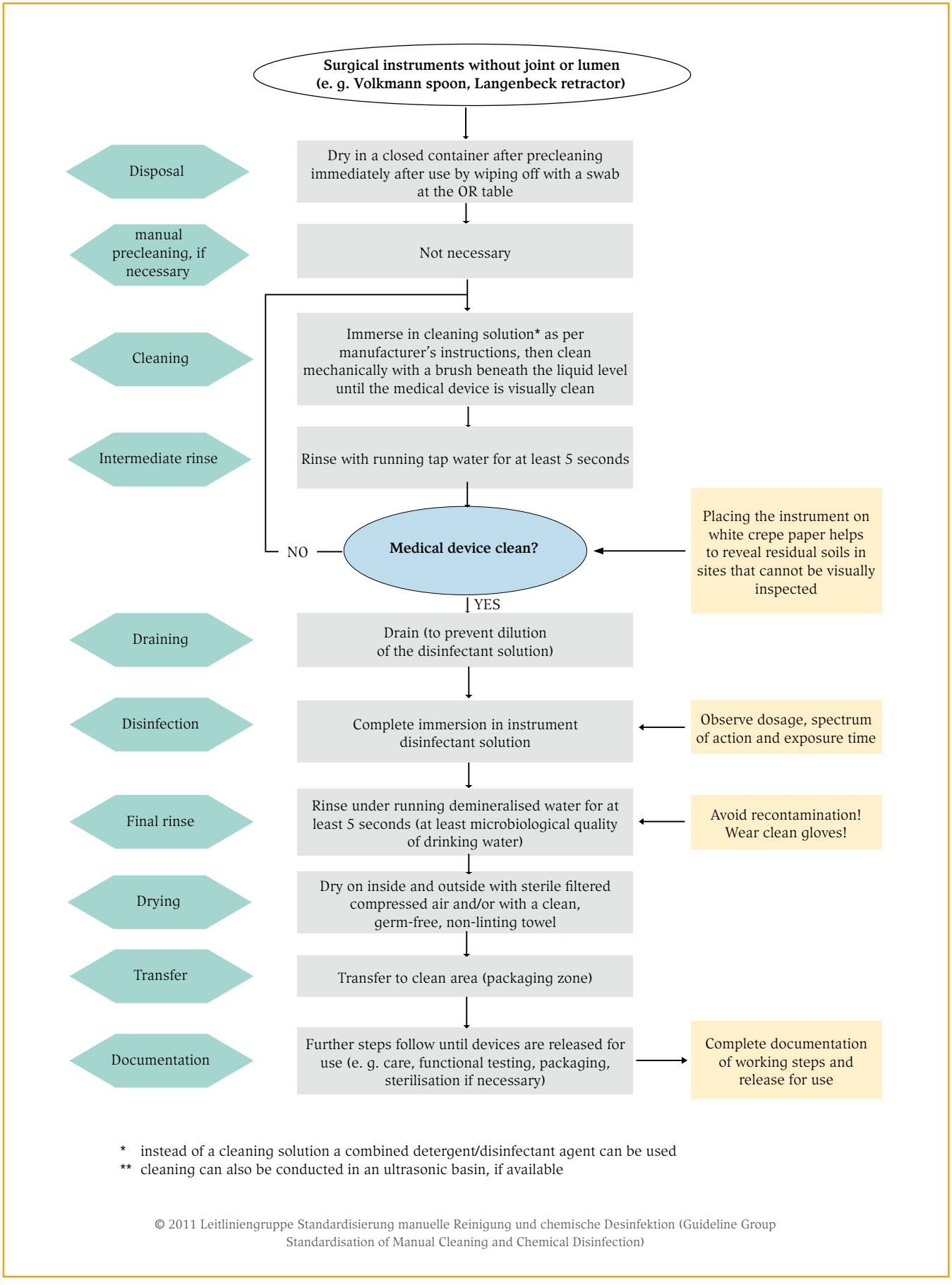
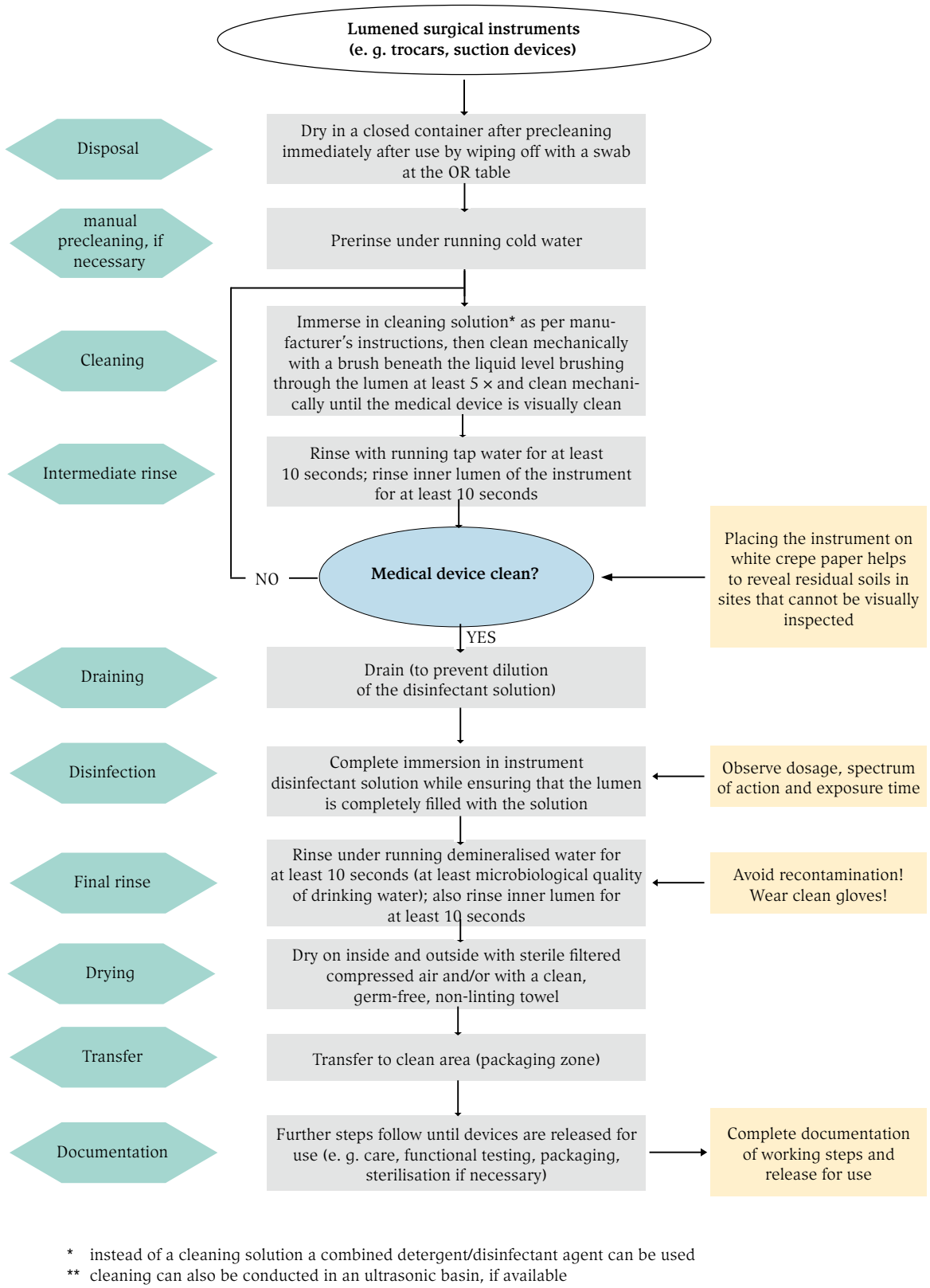


Fig. 1: Flow chart: Surgical instruments without a joint or lumen



* instead of a cleaning solution a combined detergent/disinfectant agent can be used
** cleaning can also be conducted in an ultrasonic basin, if available

Fig. 2: Flow chart: Surgical instruments with lumen