

Propulse Disposable 'One Use' tips essential in cross contamination prevention

Clinics that are still using obsolete reusable jet tips with the Propulse ear irrigator pose a cross contamination hazard to their patients according to research.

The study, led by specialist in hygiene and disinfection, Dr David Coates, analysed the potential for infection in 120 reusable jet tips that had been cleaned according to clinic guidelines and were deemed fit for use on the next patient.

Samples were taken from clinics in five counties in England who agreed to participate in the study. The majority (86%) of the samples showed some contamination with aerobic pathogens whilst 11% was contaminated to such a high level as to be a clear infection concern.

Some years ago, the manufacturers of the Propulse established that the fine bore of the reusable tips made them difficult to clean adequately and repeated cleaning and disinfection could result in micro-etching of the inner surface making it easier for organic material to adhere to uneven surfaces. In September 2002, Propulse Disposable 'One Use' Jet Tips were introduced in place of the reusable tips.

Reusable jet tips are still being used in some practices for reasons of economics and because clinics feel that cleaning before reuse is of sufficient quality. This research shows that using a Propulse Disposable 'One Use' Jet Tip per patient is the only way to eliminate cross contamination risk.

For more information about Dr Coates' research, call Mirage Health Group on 0845 130 5440 or email: uksales@miragehealthgroup.com.