New NHS Scotland decontamination guidelines support high level disinfection of ultrasound probes

New NHS Scotland ultrasound probe decontamination guidelines, released by Health Protection Scotland and Health Facilities Scotland, highlight the risks of cross contamination associated with the use of ultrasound probes and supports the requirement for high level disinfection (HLD) of semi-invasive ultrasound probes (transvaginal and transrectal) and non-invasive probes used on broken skin.

The release of the new guidance follows a national survey carried out by Health Facilities Scotland (HFS) on current decontamination practices across NHS Scotland. The survey concluded that “there is an ongoing risk to patient safety with regard to decontamination of semi-invasive ultrasound probes”.

As a result, the new guidelines require HLD after all semi-critical ultrasound procedures. The guidelines also specify a range of criteria that the purchase of a disinfection system should be based on, including efficacy, safety of use, probe compatibility, process validation and costs. The trophon EPR meets the full range of criteria outlined in the guidelines.

There is a wealth of peer reviewed, published evidence demonstrating the efficacy of the automated trophon system including, most importantly, a recently published paper showing that trophon is the only HLD system to kill high-risk, cancer causing human papillomavirus (HPV). Other systems cannot make this claim as they have not been tested on “real” natural, infectious HPV.

When it comes to safety, the trophon system protects operators with its fully closed design and disinfectant cartridges that remain sealed until they are inside the device. In addition to system process validation, an independent chemical indicator delivers further validation that decontamination cycles are successful. The trophon system is also validated with more than 1,000 probes from all major and many minor probe manufacturers. No other HLD system has undergone such extensive validation with probe manufacturers. The trophon has also been demonstrated to be a cost effective HLD solution.

“We are pleased with the growing global trend where increasing numbers of guidelines stipulate the requirement for HLD of ultrasound probes,” said Michael Kavanagh, Nanosonics’ Chief Executive Officer and President. “HLD is crucial to mitigate the risks of cross infection and improve safety for both patients and healthcare staff”.

Michael Kavanagh
CEO / President
For more information please contact:
Michael Kavanagh, CEO / President or McGregor Grant, CFO, on (02) 8063 1600
Kyahn Williamson, Investor Relations, Buchan Consulting on (03) 9866 4722
Ben Oliver, Media Relations, Buchan Consulting on (03) 9866 4722.

About Nanosonics
Nanosonics Limited is developing a portfolio of decontamination products designed to reduce the spread of infection. The Company owns intellectual property relating to a unique disinfection and sterilisation technology which can be suited to a variety of markets. Initial market applications are designed for the reprocessing of reusable medical instruments. The Company’s first product is designed to disinfect Ultrasound Transducers. For more information about Nanosonics please visit www.nanosonics.com.au

References


