HOW TO TEST & INSPECT
Kerrison Rongeurs

Featuring excerpts from the textbook:
Inspecting Surgical Instruments; An Illustrated Guide

By Rick Schultz
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HOW TO TEST & INSPECT:
Kerrison Rongeurs

Kerrison Rongeurs

Kerrison Rongeurs are heavy-duty, stainless steel, double-action surgical instruments specifically designed for cutting and removing small pieces of bone during surgery with their sharp, scoop-shaped cutting “bite”.

Kerrison Rongeurs are available in several different styles, lengths, cutting angles, and jaw openings.

Points of Inspection

• Inspect cutting edges for burrs and dents.
• Inspect distal tips closely for trapped bioburden.
• Inspect channel for trapped bioburden.
• Inspect screw area on both sides for cracks. Also inspect for blood and baked-on bioburden.
• Inspect springs for secure, interlocking fit.

NOTE: Damage most often occurs at the distal tip.

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Post-Operative Care of Kerrison Rongeurs

Begin the decontamination process within 20 minutes after surgery. The use of spray-on moisturizers such as Spectra-Moist® (Order # SS6) is also a very effective way to prevent blood from drying on instruments. Soak the instruments in an enzymatic solution or place a moist towel saturated with water over the instruments. Be sure to thoroughly rinse, clean and inspect the channel, interlocking areas, and cutting portions. These are the most difficult areas to clean.

Preventative Maintenance of Kerrison Rongeurs

A Kerrison Rongeur is one instrument that poses great challenges to facilities when it comes to maintenance. This is largely due to the fact that there is no way for the end user to take apart and clean instruments such as Kerrison rongeurs. These instruments are an example of items that must be kept on a repair rotation with the repair vendor. The company will properly disassemble your Kerrisons and remove trapped bioburden from the inner track as well as inspect, sharpen and align the track. This is critical to patient safety as there is no way for the end user to effectively clean these items.

Note: Kerrison Rongeur screw remains locked by manufacturer’s tap, indicating this rongeur has never been disassembled for cleaning.

The result: Trapped bioburden.

NOTE: Photos obtained from exclusive Spectra-Scan® technology, present on all Spectrum On-Location Repair vehicles. Contact a Spectrum customer care representative today to find out more or to receive FREE copies of our Surgical Instrument Inspection Bulletins featuring actual before and after photos for educational purposes.
Kerrison Inspection and Quality Assurance

1. Carefully inspect rongeur at distal tip, where damage most often occurs, significantly reducing the instrument’s ability to cut.

2. Inspect channel and all interlocking parts for bioburden.

3. If rongeur sticks or action is not smooth, lubricate instrument or send out for repair.

4. Carefully inspect springs and screws for cracks and debris.

- 2.5x magnification for thorough instrument inspection
- Bright 2-stage LED light
- Durable aluminum body
- Large 55mm lens

Available from Spectrum
Order # 10-0225

Spectra-Mat™ Instrument Inspection Mat
(Patent Pending)
Order # 10-0224

Instrument Inspection & Identification Flash Cards
Order # 10-0227

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Sharpness Test For Kerrison Rongeurs

Be sure that the device is safe to handle and has been fully decontaminated. Open and close the device to evaluate proper action. Inspect for cracks and trapped bioburden.

Kerrison should make a clean, precise cut through a standard 3" x 5" index card without tearing (Spectrum Sharpness Test Standards Kit, Order # 2005STB). Rongeur should open and close smoothly and spring open easily.

Complete Sharpness Test Standards Kit
Order # 2005STB

Includes all you need to properly test:
- Scissors
- Curettes
- Rongeurs
- Osteotomes
- Chisels
- Pin Cutters
- Bone Cutters
- Arthroscopy Punches
- Biopsy Punches & More!
Rust vs. Stains

Stains can be removed, whereas rust will leave permanent damage. To determine if a brown/orange discoloration on a Kerrison Rongeur is a stain or rust, use the eraser test. Rub a pencil eraser aggressively over the discoloration. If the discoloration is removed with the eraser and the metal underneath is smooth and clean, this is a stain. If a pit mark appears under the discoloration, this corrosion is rust.

Trouble Shooting Stain Guide

Brown/Orange Stains - Most brown/orange stains are not rust. This stain color is the result of high pH surface deposits caused by any of the following: chlorhexidine usage, improper soaps and detergents, baked-on blood, soaking in saline or using laundry soap.

Dark Brown/Black Stains - Low pH (less than 6) acid stain. May be caused by improper detergents and soaps and/or dried blood.

Bluish-Black Stains - Reverse plating may occur when two different types of metals are ultrasonically processed together. For example, stainless steel instruments processed with chrome instruments may cause a stain color reaction. Exposure to saline, blood or potassium chloride will cause this bluish-black stain to occur.

Multi-Color Stains - Excessive heat caused by a localized “hot spot” in the autoclave.

Light and Dark Spots - Water spots from allowing instruments to air-dry. With slow evaporation, minerals from water are left on the instrument’s surface.

Bluish-Gray Stains - Cold sterilization solution being used outside manufacturer guidelines.

Black Stains - Possible exposure to ammonia.

Stain Removal

To remove localized staining, dip a moistened cleaning brush in Spectra-Scrub® and brush the stain away. Use tap water or distilled water to rinse, then dry with a towel.
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For more information or to order the complete textbook:

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