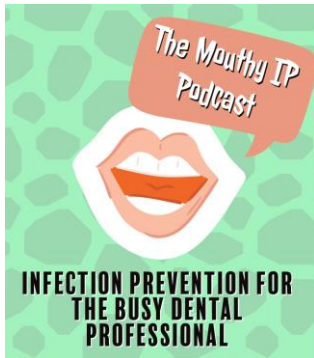




Infection Control Assessment
and Promotion Program

Contact Nebraska ICAP at
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402.552.2881



THE MOUTHY IP PODCAST

EPISODE 7:

WET PACKS

***ALL INFORMATION
IS ACCURATE AS OF
THE DATE THIS
EPISODE WAS
RECORDED**

Summary:

The ICAP team got a phone call asking why wet packs need to be avoided during your sterilization and storage processes.

Key Takeaways:

1. Wet packs are sterilization pouches or wrapped cassettes that come out of the sterilizer and are still wet from the steam sterilization process.
2. A wet pack is an opportunity for contamination and any wet packs should be considered not sterile and reprocessed.
3. Common reasons for wet packs are:
 - a. Not allowing the sterilizer to complete the dry cycle
 - b. Overloading the sterilizer so the pouches and cassettes can't dry completely
 - c. Not drying instruments before packaging them
 - d. Sterilizer issues
4. Easy ways to mitigate wet packs:
 - a. Employee training on proper sterilizer maintenance and use
 - b. Perform regular maintenance on sterilizers
 - c. Don't overload the sterilizer
 - d. If needed, purchase more instruments or another sterilizer so instruments can complete the entire dry cycle without the need for pulling them early

Resource List:

1. Sterilization and Disinfection of Patient-care Items in Oral Healthcare Settings
 - a. https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/pdfs_and_other_files/BESC7-Sterilization-508.pdf
2. Wet Pack Resource:
https://www.iahcsmm.org/images/Lesson_Plans/CRCST/CRCST155.pdf
3. Peeks and Pitfalls of Sterilization ICAP Webinar:
 - a. <https://icap.nebraskamed.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/06/6.9.21-3.pdf?highlight=wet%20pack>