

St. Thomas's Endoscope Cleaning Facts:

- We follow manufacturer recommendations and CDC guidelines for scope cleaning, processing, handling and storage.
- Every scope goes through three basic cleaning steps:
 - They are manually cleaned externally and all channels are thoroughly brushed and irrigated.
 - Prior to disinfection, the solution is tested to ensure it has retained the potency required to provide adequate disinfection.
 - Scopes are run through a processor designed specifically to disinfect and clean both the inside and outside of the device.
 - Upon removal scopes are stored according to manufacturer recommended guidelines.
- After every cleaning cycle, we review and maintain a record of reports generated by the processor to validate the equipment has performed properly.
- Detailed Quality Reviews of all aspects of the cleaning processes are performed annually at a minimum.
- Annually and periodically throughout the year, we assess the knowledge and competence of the staff members responsible for cleaning the scopes.
- Historically, we've had no issues with infection related to improperly cleaned scopes.