



**Florida State University
Animal Care and Use Committee**

Guidance on Use of Hot Bead Sterilizers

Hot bead sterilizers may be used to sterilize instruments for rodent and avian surgical procedures when described in the approved Animal Use Protocol and where a “tips-only” technique is used. A “tips-only” technique restricts the surgeon to using only the sterile working ends of the surgical instruments to manipulate the surgical field. The surgeon’s non-sterile gloved hands must never touch the working end of the instruments, the suture, suture needle, or any part of the surgical field.

Hot bead sterilizers must be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations. Beads must be pre-heated to the recommended temperature and the instruments exposed for the recommended time.

Gross debris must be removed from instruments before inserting into the sterilizer. Instruments must be allowed to cool before touching tissues.

Glass beads must be replaced in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations.

Revision History

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