

HANDLING OF REUSABLE BLADES IN A SURGERY CENTER

OASIS Feather Reusable Scalpels may provide extended use with proper care.

The following are protocols created by a private ophthalmic practice willing to share their back-office procedures when handling OASIS Feather Reusable Scalpels for the greater benefit of their medical colleagues interested in learning an alternative approach. They have requested anonymity and have no financial ties to OASIS Medical.

The delivery of first-rate surgical outcomes is of paramount importance to our team. We constantly strive to produce those outcomes in the most efficient manner possible. Cost containment in our supply chain allows us to conserve our resources and to redirect them where they matter most. This is critical for any ambulatory surgery center to thrive. We use OASIS Feather Reusable Scalpels as one means to achieve these goals. The product is superiorly made and this allows us, along with the proper care, to get the most use from each blade. The reusable blade has not negatively impacted the quality of the incision or healing in our microscopic ophthalmic cases.

We use OASIS Feather Reusable Scalpels in most of our microscopic cases, which averages about 20 per week. We keep five trays in rotation so that each scalpel is used approximately four times a week. We make sure that on the surgical field we handle the scalpels carefully to prevent nicks in the blades. We only recently disposed of a blade that had been in use since December 2014, which is nearly 18 months' worth of use for a single blade. The surgeon and the team maintain an open line of communication to determine when a blade needs to be replaced.

We handle all of our OASIS Feather Reusable Scalpels with care. An internal training program is undertaken. We have a small staff so enforcement is not an issue; occasional redirection is all that is necessary. We are sure to keep them in their protective cases whenever they are not in use or being sterilized (Figure). Microsurgical instruments in our facility are processed immediately following each use. They are never left to sit in the decontamination area. Our processing system is standard for all of our microsurgical instruments. Everything is processed in a multi-enzymatic cleanser and put into the ultrasonic machine to clean the blades for up to 5 minutes, and then well rinsed. Our blades are wiped with Merocel sponges (Beaver-Visitec International), if needed, to remove any residue. We also steam sterilize all of our equipment. This helps to maintain the edge on the blade. As



Figure. OASIS Medical carries a wide variety of ophthalmic scalpels for use in cataract, refractive, retinal, and glaucoma surgery. Scalpels come in protective cases for storage when not in use.

with most centers, we have silicone tray liners to protect the instruments in their trays. Some of our blades are individually peel packed for storage if they are not a daily-use item. ■

Request more Feather Reusable Scalpel information by calling (844) 820-8940 or sending an email: customerservice@oasismedical.com.