Flexible fibrescope - Care & Sterilization

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1. Fragile - handle with care!
   - Always use gloves
   - Ensure the distal tip of the scope is always protected

2. Inspect for damage (before and after use)
   - Examine the optics, the insertion cord and the up/down lever function

3. Effective cleaning is essential before sterilization
   - Perform manual cleaning, seen after the endoscope is used so that secretions do not dry and harden
   - Start by wiping externally with a disposable cloth soaked in soapy water

4. Wash
   - Dismantle detachable parts (if appropriate)
   - Rinse thoroughly with demineralised water (never use saline)

5. Flush, brush & purge
   - Flush the suction channel with water
   - Use appropriate brush to all accessible ports to remove debris

6. Ensure scope is dry before sterilization
   - Wet endoscopes increase the risk of contamination
   - Drying prevents disease transmission

7. Leak test scope before sterilization
   - Attach the leak tester and pressurise the endoscope to blue area. Immense the endoscope in water & observe for bubbles
   - If there is any damage (bubbles/ fall in pressure) do not send scope for sterilization

8. Sterilization
   - In UCLH, Leakage testing is performed at CSSD
   - Washing, brushing, purging is done prior to sterilization
   - Scopes are sterilized & dried using automatic reprocessor
   - Labels are issued to ensure traceability of sterile scopes

9. Store dry in UV cupboard
   - Store dry in a clean UV cupboard by suspending vertically
   - Use sterile gloves to handle scopes

REFERENCES