

# FAQs

## Frequently Asked Questions

### MaxiTest™ IN-OFFICE STEAM BI STERILIZATION MONITORING



#### **Can users of the MaxiTest In-Office BI system read the test results before 24 hours?**

A: Yes. 24 hours is the final incubation period; however, growth of surviving spores has been documented in as little as 2 1/2 hours. We recommend checking for spore growth at regular intervals (i.e. 3, 5, 8 hours). If a failure is detected, there is no reason to further incubate the BI. A failed test BI is reason for concern; however, the unprocessed control BI should turn yellow, indicating spore growth.

#### **How and when do users activate the MaxiTest BI vial?**

A: Henry Schein incubators come with built in vial crushers. After sterilization, the BI is properly “activated” when the inner media tube has been broken, allowing the media and spore strip to make contact.

DO NOT CRUSH THE VIAL BEFORE PROCESSING THROUGH STERILIZER.

#### **What is a Control BI and when should one be used?**

A: A control is an unprocessed BI. Each day the sterilizer is tested, an unprocessed BI (from the same lot) should be activated and incubated for growth. The BI will grow and turn from purple to yellow which demonstrates the spores inside the BI were viable at time of use and that the incubator temperature is correct.

#### **What should a user do if their unprocessed Control BI does not turn yellow?**

A: Check that the incubator is plugged in and that the green light on the incubator is on. Be sure the vial is properly activated using the built-in vial crusher. Also be sure the BIs have been properly stored prior to use, e.g. room temperature, and not exposed to the Steam sterilization process.



***What can cause the media to evaporate or turn brownish in color during incubation?***

A: Media can evaporate or turn a brownish color if left in the incubator for periods beyond 48 hours. Media that has been incubated for 24 hours or less that starts to turn a brownish color is usually an indication that the incubator temperature is operating too high. This “caramelizing” of the media does not necessarily indicate a sterilization failure, but typically indicates the media has been exposed to heat for too long. Contact Technical (800-722-1529) Support for further instructions if this happens.

***How should users dispose of the processed and unprocessed BIs?***

A: MaxiTest product instructions recommend autoclaving both processed and unprocessed BIs at 250°C for 30 minutes or longer prior to disposing as normal waste. Alternatively, BIs can be disposed of as biohazard waste without autoclaving.

***What types of sterilizers can the MaxiTest™ In-Office system monitor?***

A: The MaxiTest In-Office BI is for use with FDA cleared healthcare steam sterilizers. It should not be used with other processes, such as EO gas, chemical vapor or dry heat. Other in-office systems exist for these sterilization processes.

***Should users allow the BI to cool before activation?***

A: Yes, all self contained BI vials should be allowed to cool for 10 minutes prior to activation to avoid injury.

***How soon after processing should a user activate the BI. Is there a time limit?***

A: Activate and incubate the BI within 24 hours after processing the test vial. Allow the vial to cool for 10 minutes following cycle completion, and then promptly put the vial in the incubator in order to ensure timely records.

***If the media leaks from the BI vial, should I be concerned?***

A: Both the spores and the media are harmless, so there is no safety issue. There is, however, a concern as to the integrity of that vial and therefore, it is recommended that a new test vial be run.

***What causes steam sterilizers to fail?***

A: While steam sterilizers can and do mechanically fail, the most common reason for failure is operator error, e.g. running from a cold start, over loading the sterilizer and/or incorrect cycle parameters (time and temperature).

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