

# Dental Matrix bands

Single  
Point  
Lesson

HTM 01 05 states “Where instruments are difficult to clean, consideration should be given to replacing them with single-use instruments where possible. In dentistry this will include, but is not limited to, instruments such as matrix bands”.

- Research has found blood can be present on a matrix band after manual or ultrasonic cleaning followed by autoclaving.
- Blood has also been found to be present after soaking in enzymatic detergent and/or processing in a washer-disinfector.
- Matrix bands should be removed from the matrix holder safely after **every** use and disposed of as a ‘sharp’.
- **Do not** decontaminate the matrix band prior to use or once used. Only the matrix holder is to be decontaminated if not single use.
- **Remember:** A matrix band once used could potentially ‘pierce’ through the glove and into the skin.
- Using a device such as ‘mosquito forceps’ with a lockable system to assist in the removal of the band will help prevent direct contact with the band and minimise the risk of a sharps injury.



The re-use of a single-use device has implications under the Medical Devices Regulations. Anyone who reprocesses or re-uses a device CE-marked for use on a single occasion bears the responsibilities normally carried by the manufacturer for the safety and effectiveness of the instrument.

Remember: Effective cleaning of dental instruments before sterilization is of the utmost importance to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious agents.



## Immunisation & Inoculation injury

A free advice & inoculation injury drop in service is available for ALL dental staff from:

Occupational Health @ Aintree University Hospital. Liverpool L9 7AL

Tel: 0151 529 6607

Email: [www.aintreeworkandwell-being.nhs.uk](http://www.aintreeworkandwell-being.nhs.uk)



Further advice can be obtained from the infection control team on 01744 457314/01744 457312