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 insulin lispro injection
 200 units/mL

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 cartridges must never be shared between patients, even if the needle is changed. Patients using Humalog vials must never share needles or syringes with another person. Sharing poses a risk for transmission of blood-borne pathogens.

- **Changes in Insulin Regimen:** Changes may affect glycemic control and predispose to hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia.



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Kaiser Health News

Renewed Scope Cleaning Efforts Not Enough to Vanquish Bacteria



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Print

Rigorous cleaning practices don't ensure that medical scopes are free of contamination, and many of these reusable devices have scratches and dents that could harbor blood, tissue and bacteria, a new study found.

The seven-month study, published Tuesday in the American Journal of Infection Control, found that 12 of 20 gastroscopes and colonoscopes examined tested positive for bacterial growth, even after being disinfected using the current guidelines or additional measures.

In addition, 17 of the scopes were pulled from use at the end of the study and returned to the manufacturer for repair due to serious defects. Photos in the study show numerous scratches and dents on the ends of the scopes that could trap organic material as well as brown stains, debris and residual fluid stuck inside scope channels.

The scopes were relatively new at the beginning of the study and all were manufactured by Tokyo-based Olympus Corp., the leading maker of gastrointestinal scopes used in the United States and worldwide.

"Physicians, other caregivers, hospitals and regulators should be paying keen attention to this issue, as patients have a right to assume that clean instruments are being used on them," said Cori Ofstead, the study's lead author and an epidemiologist in St. Paul, Minn.

Since 2015, federal prosecutors, lawmakers and government regulators have been investigating a series of outbreaks of antibiotic-resistant "superbugs" across the country tied to scopes. Most of the scrutiny has been focused on a specific device known as a duodenoscope, which is used to inspect and treat problems in the gastrointestinal tract. It has been tied to at least 35 deaths in the past four years.



But this study and other outbreak reports suggest a broader problem affecting other types of scopes, which could put more patients at risk of dangerous infections nationwide. However, the bacteria this latest study found weren't the drug-resistant superbugs that can be deadly for patients.

The research was limited to a small number of scopes at one surgery center affiliated with the University of Minnesota Health System. But outside experts said the research was rigorous and raised serious concerns.

"It was quite shocking to see the pictures in this study," said Michelle Alfa, a professor in the department of medical microbiology at the University of Manitoba and an adviser to U.S. regulators on scope testing. [Continue Reading](#)

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