

HANDLING OF REUSABLE BLADES IN A SURGERY CENTER

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 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 or FEATHER. FEATHER Reusable Scalpels are exclusively distributed in the United States by 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 FEATHER Reusable Scalpels (Figure 1) as one means to achieve these goals. The product is superiorly made, and this, along with the proper care, allows us to get the most use from each blade. The reusable blade has not negatively affected the quality of the incision or healing in our microscopic ophthalmic cases.

We use FEATHER Reusable Scalpels in most of our microscopic cases, which average 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 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 the blades in their protective cases whenever they are not in use or being sterilized (Figure 2). 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 multienzymatic 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 PVA foam sponges, if needed, to remove any residue. We also steam sterilize all of our equipment. This helps to maintain the edge on the blade.



Figure 1. FEATHER Reusable blades with metal handles.



Figure 2. FEATHER Ultra Sharp Slit O624BUC. FEATHER Scalpels come with protective cases for ease of storage and sterilization. FEATHER Scalpels are exclusively available through OASIS Medical, Glendora, California.

As 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. ■

Learn more about the FEATHER line of reusable and disposable scalpels by visiting www.oasismedical.com, emailing OASIS Medical at feather@oasismedical.com, or calling OASIS Medical at (844) 820-8940.