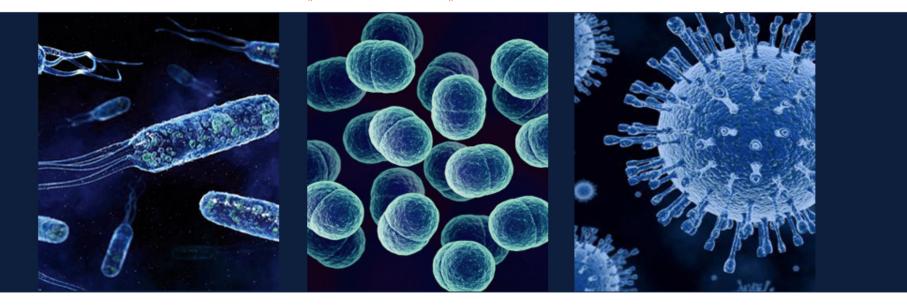






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# Lecture 7

## Sterilization & Disinfection

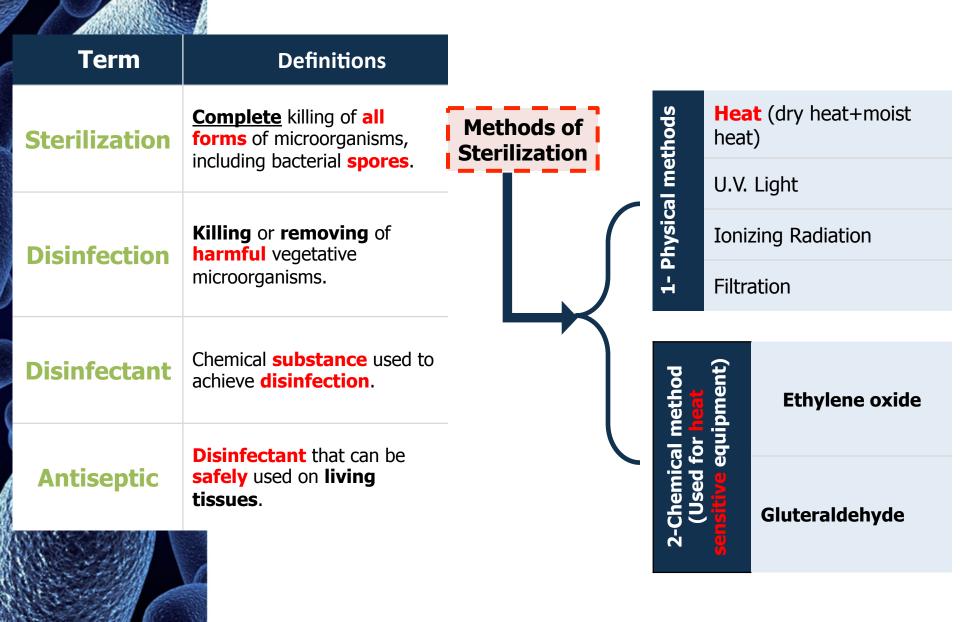
Important

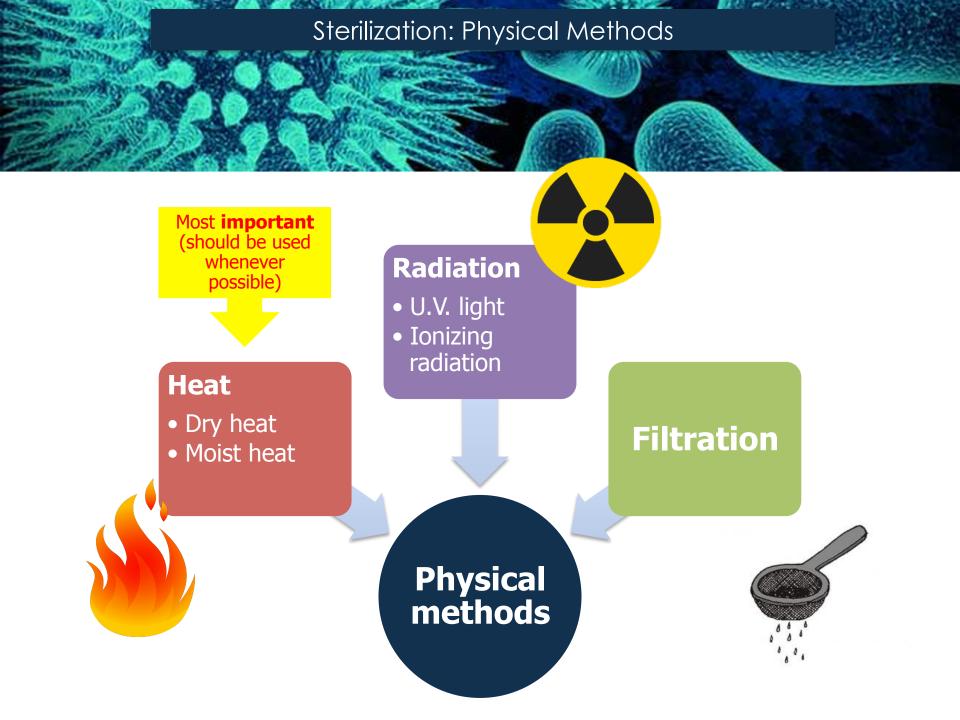
TermExtra explanationAdditional notes

# **Objectives**

- Define the terms sterilization, disinfectant and antiseptic.
- Classify the <u>different methods</u> of sterilization (physical and chemical methods).
- Know and realizes that heat is the most important method of sterilization and its <u>application in medical practice</u>.
- Know dry heat as applied in hot air oven and moist heat as applied in autoclaves.
- Know the principles of autoclave function and monitoring methods of sterilization.
- Know the importance of non heat sterilization methods and their use for sterilization of <u>heat sensitive</u> <u>objects.</u>
- Know the difference between antiseptics and disinfectants.
- Classify the disinfectants and antiseptics and know factors affecting their functions.
- Know different applications for different disinfections and antiseptics.

### Definitions & Sterilization Methods





### Sterilization: Physical Methods

### **Sterilization by Heat Common methods**

### **Dry Heat:**

- \* kills microorganisms by destroying their **oxidative processes**.
- \* Simplest method is **exposing item to be sterilized to the naked flame**
- \* Hot air oven expose items to <a>160 °C</a> for <a>1</a> hour
- \* Has **electric element** in chamber as source of heat
- \* Has **fan** to circulate air for even distribution of heat in chamber(. Oven without fan is **dangerous**)

Used for items that are **lacking water** such as: **Metals**, **Glassware**, **Ointment** / **Oils**/ **Waxes** /**Powder** 

### **Moist Heat:**

- \* Uses hot water. Moist heat kills microorganisms by denaturating proteins.
- \* Autoclaving standard sterilization method in hospitals.

  Autoclave works under the same principle as the pressure cooker because of increase pressure the boiling point of water is >100 °C.









## **Autoclave**

is a tough **double** walled chamber in which air is replaced by pure saturated <u>steam</u> under pressure.

## **Advantages of Autoclave**

1-Temp.>100 °C. Therefore spore killing

2-Condensation of steam generated extra heat so The condensation also allows the steam to penetrate rapidly into porous materials.

3-The usual temperature achieved is 121 °C , exposure time of only 15 mins..

Monitoring of Autoclaves

**Physical** 

Use of **thermocouple** to accurately measure the temperature.

Chemical

It consists of heat sensitive chemical that **changes color** at the right temperature and exposure time.

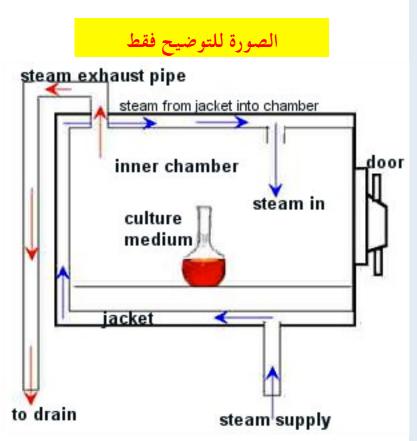
e.g. a)- Autoclave tape b)- Browne's tube.

**Biological** 

Where a spore-bearing organism is added during the sterilization process and then cultured later to ensure that it has been killed.

Note: for all invasive procedures at operating room or clinics, autoclavable equipments should be used.





### How do autoclaves work?

The **air** in the chamber is **evacuated** and **filled** with **saturated steam**. The chamber is closed tightly the steam keeps on filling into it and the **pressure** gradually increases. The items to be sterilized get completely surrounded by saturated steam (moist heat) which on contact with the surface of material to be sterilized condenses to release its latent heat of condensation which adds to already raised temperature of steam so that eventually all the microorganisms in what ever form are killed.

The **usual temperature** achieved is **121 °C** , exposure time of only **15 mins** .



## **Pasteurization**

**Boiling** 

- \*Used heat at temperatures <u>sufficient</u> to inactivate harmful organism in <u>milk</u>.
- \* The temperatures of sterilization is **not** achieved.

Temperature may:

74°C, for 3-5 seconds (Flash methods)

62°C for 30 minutes (Conventional method)

\*Pasteurization to prevent diseases like:

Typhoid fever, Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Q fever.

Quite common especially in domestic circumstances.



### U.V. light

- -Has **limited** sterilizing power because of **poor penetration** into most materials.
- -Generally used in irradiation of air in certain areas such as operating rooms and tuberculosis labs.

### **Ionizing radiation**

- -e.g. Gamma radiation: has greater energy than U.V. light, therefore more effective.
  - -Used mainly in industrial facilities e.g. sterilization of disposable plastic syringes, gloves, specimens containers and Petri dishes.

# Radiation

# **Filtration**

- -May be done under either negative or positive pressure.
- -Example ; *membrane filter* made of cellulose acetate.
- -Generally removes most bacteria but viruses and some small bacteria e.g. *Chlamydia* & *Mycoplasma* may pass through.
- -Thus filtration does not technically sterilize items but is adequate for circumstances under which is used.
- -Main use: heat labile substances e.g. sera, antibiotics.

### Sterilization: Chemical Methods

### **Chemical methods:**

Useful for **heat sensitive materials** e.g. **plastics** and **lensed endoscopes**. and they are:

Non-sterilized endoscopes can transmit virulent pathogens, such as: HIV and hepatitis A, B and C.

### **Ethylene Oxide Chamber**

- 1- Ethylene oxide alkylates DNA molecules and there by inactivates microorganisms.
- 2- it may cause explosion if used pure so it is mixed with an inert gas.
- 3- it requires:
- 1.high humidity (50-60%)
- 2. Temperature: 55-60°C.
- 3. Exposure period 4-6 hours.

# Disinfectants / Antiseptics

eg. phenolics, chlorhexidine, alcohol, etc..

# Activated alkaline Gluteraldehyde 2%

Immerse item in solution for about 20 mintues.

If *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or spores present then immersion period **2-3 hours.** 

Some strong chemical substances may be used to achieve sterilization (kill spores) e.g. Gluteraldehyde and Ethylene oxide. Used for heat sensitive equipments.

## Factors Influencing Activity of Disinfectants

### temperature

(directly proportional)

#### concentration

Directly proportional up to a point. (optimum concentration)
After this level no advantage in further increases in
concentration

We should wash before sterilizing to avoid inactivation by dirt or non-organic molecules.

### **Disinfectants** may be inactivated by :

1/Dirt 2/Organic matter: (Proteins, Pus, Blood, Mucus and Feces). 3/Non organic: (Cork, Hard water and Some plastics).

**Time**: Disinfectants need time to work.

Range of action:
(affects what type of bacteria?)

**Range of Action**: Disinfectants not equally effective against the whole spectrum of microbes.

e.g. Chlorhexidine less active against Gram negative bacteria than Gram positive cocci.

Hypochlorites and Gluteraldehyde are more active against hepatitis viruses than most other disinfectants.

# Chlorine is a disinfectant, its uses include: Clorox (diluted form), small portions are added to drinking water and different forms of it are used in swimming pools (esspecially public ones) Important points

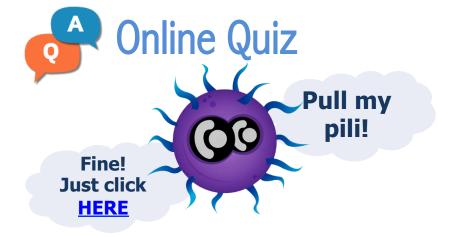
## Hospital Disinfection Methods

Article	Disinfectant	
Floors, walls	Phenolics fluids 1-2%	
Surfaces tables	Hypochlorite, Alcohol	Surface sterilizers are used in laboratories
Endoscopes	Gluteraldehyde 2% (Cidex), subatmospheric steam	
Thermometers	70% Alcohol	
Skin		
Surgeons' hands	Chlorhexidine, lodine a	
Patient skin	70% Alcohol, Iodine	include hand sanitizers and sterilizers used by surgeons before surgery

instruments or items used for sterile body site should be sterile

Any instrument or item used for non-sterile body site can be disinfected.

Hand washing is the most important to prevent hospital acquired infection



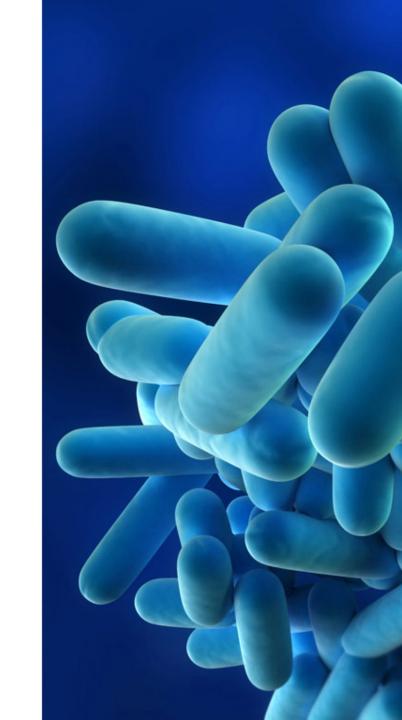


https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=JUp4n\_r5s2w

https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=GAOCDMbDvRQ



Microbiology Made Ridiculously Simple









## **Boys Team**

- Ali Alzahrani
- Khalid Sharahily
- Ahmad Alzahrani
- Zeyad Alsalem
- Muhammad Dossary
- Meshal Alhazmy
- Hamzah Alfiar



Microbiology.435@gmail.com



@microbiology435



http://ask.fm/microbiology435

### Girls Team

- Lamya Alsaghan
- Nojood Alhaidri
- Monera Alayuni
- Alanoud AlOmair
- Shahad Alenezi
- Aisha Al-Sabbagh
- Bodour Julaidan
- Noura AlTawil
- Deema AlFaris
- Sara Al-Hussein
- Suha Alenezy
- Latifah Alsukait
- Dalal Alhuzaimi
- Reema Allhaidan



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