

HYGIENE PLAN for Medical Leech Therapy

Practice:

WHICH	WHEN	WHAT MEASURES	HOW	WHO
Hands	All the common measures of hand sanitising in practice have to be equally taken with leech therapy. It is necessary to ensure that the leeches do not come into contact with residues of disinfectants. To avoid leech bites, powder-free latex, nitrile, or vinyl gloves have to be worn when contacting the animals.			
Short-term keeping of leeches (up to one week)	From the arrival of the leeches in the practice up to the use in patients	The leeches have to be kept in a tightly closed receptacle with simply distilled water plus 0.75 g/l sea salt	Keeping at room temperature: maximum number 5 leeches per litre water, change of water every 3 days, the water temperature must not exceed 23 °C	Medical staff, practice owner, assistants
Long-term keeping of leeches (over one week)	From the arrival of the leeches in the practice up to the day before the use in patients	The leeches have to be kept in a tightly closed receptacle with simply distilled water plus 0.75 g/l sea salt	Keeping in the refrigerator: maximum number 5 leeches per litre water, change of water once a week, the water temperature must not fall below 2 °C	Medical staff, practice owner, assistants
Cleaning of receptacles (glass container)	Prior to putting the leeches for keeping the leeches until the use in patients or for longer lasting keeping every 2 weeks respectively	Dishwasher (Documentation records of the last cleaning)		Medical staff, practice owner, assistants
Preparation of leeches for application	Immediately before the use of leeches in patients	Tap water	Remove the leeches from the receptacle, put them into a close-meshed sieve, and rinse them for 5 minutes approximately with running tap water (18 °C approximately)	Medical staff, practice owner, assistants
Patient Hygiene	Directly before the practice visit	Tap water	Shower without use of soap	Medical staff, practice owner, assistants
Wound care	Immediately after the leech therapy	Sterile wound contact layer or Dressing material	Cover the bite wounds with sterile contact layer, subsequently with dressing material	Medical staff, practice owner, assistants
Disposal of leeches	Immediately after the leech therapy	Freezing at – 18 °C (for at least 12 hours) or putting into high-proof alcohol (methylated spirit) Alternative option: Return delivery (exclusively with the return package set of Biebertaler Blutegelzucht GmbH)	The disposal of leeches at small quantities must be done (in Germany) according to the waste code number 18 01 04 with the residual waste "Collection and disposal of waste subject to minor restrictions with respect to infection prevention (e.g. Bandages and plaster casts, laundry, disposable clothes, diapers) in liquid-tight, break-proof containers with the inscription "Waste originating from human medical treatment".	Medical staff, practice owner, assistants
Comments	When using the model hygiene plan, please observe specific hygienic requirements of your EU country.			