

# HDROZONE™

## Hydronium-Based Hybrid Sterilization Platform

### The Clinical and Operational Reality of Next-Generation Low-Temperature Sterilization

Hasan Tahsin ÖZBEK • Bülent DEVECİ • Yüksel ERGÜN

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Minimally invasive surgery and flexible endoscopy have fundamentally transformed sterilization technology. Today's sterilization challenge is no longer simply "killing microorganisms."

#### The real problem encompasses:

- Long and narrow lumens
- Complex internal surfaces
- Heat-sensitive materials
- High patient safety expectations

**Current low-temperature sterilization systems cannot fully address this new reality.**

HDROZONE™ technology transitions sterilization from a passive gas diffusion approach to an active, directed, and controlled reactive transport model.

This white paper presents, clearly and directly:

- The clinical need
- The limitations of current systems
- The differentiating features of the HDROZONE™ approach



#### KEYS

Hydronium, Sterilization, Lumen, Reactive Transport, Contamination, Material Safety

# 1. THE REAL PROBLEM IN MODERN STERILIZATION

## 1.1 Impact of Endoscopy and Robotic Surgery

### Systems in current use include:

- Flexible endoscopes
- Robotic surgical instruments (e.g., the da Vinci Surgical System)
- Long-lumen devices

### These devices are challenging for conventional sterilization due to their:

- Small diameter
- Extended length
- Multi-surface geometry

## 1.2 Real Risks Faced by Hospitals

### Problems encountered in the field today:

- Uncertainty regarding intraluminal sterilization
- Cycle cancellations
- Humidity-related failures
- Chemical residual risk
- Instrument damage

### These issues directly lead to:

- Patient safety risks
- Surgical delays
- Increased costs
- Reduced device service life

## 2. LIMITATIONS OF CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES

Market leaders in this space include Advanced Sterilization Products and STERIS.

### 2.1 Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide (VHP)

**Core problem:**

- Efficacy diminishes as gas advances through the lumen
- Activity weakens within the lumen

**Result:**

Unreliable in long lumens.

### 2.2 Gas Plasma Systems

- Localized effect
- Limited penetration
- Short reactive species lifetime

### 2.3 Ozone Systems

- High oxidation potential
- Material compatibility risk
  - Difficult to control

### 2.4 Critical Conclusion

**No existing system can simultaneously deliver:**

- Deep penetration into long lumens
  - Low operating temperature
    - Material safety
    - Low residuals

## 3. THE HDROZONE™ APPROACH

HDROZONE™ technology moves sterilization™ to a fundamentally different physical model.

### Core Approach

- Directed transport rather than gas diffusion
- Active control rather than passive process
- Stabilized reactive species rather than short-lived radicals

#### 3.1 Hybrid Chemical Mechanism

**HDROZONE™ operates through a combination of:**

- Hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)
  - Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)
- Controlled energy activation

**This process generates and directs:**

- Hydronium ions (H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>)
- Potent oxidant species

#### 3.2 The Critical Difference

In conventional systems: gas disperses passively.

In HDROZONE™: reactive species are actively directed.

**This difference fundamentally changes intraluminal behaviour.**

## 4. SOLVING THE LUMEN PROBLEM

The most difficult problem in sterilization: **long and narrow lumens.**

### The HDROZONE™ approach:

- Maintains reactive species centrally within the lumen
- Reduces surface losses
- Ensures forward transport to the distal end

### Result:

- Deep penetration
- Homogeneous efficacy

## 5. CLINICAL PERFORMANCE AND VALIDATION

Independent laboratory studies conducted under: Results:

- Challenging load conditions
- Long-lumen scenarios
- Biological indicator (BI) verification

- High sterilization assurance
- Efficacy at distal endpoints
- Consistent performance

Technical Report supported by HygCen Accredited Laboratories  
— Bischofshofen, 2020-09-29



### 4.3.3 Positions and results of the microbiological indicators

bionova - biological indicator		
cfu / carrier	mean value	
[lg]	[lg]	
Control 1-2	8,69/8,94	8,82

Wrapping*	sample No.	designation	cfu / carrier	Enrichment*	lg / carrier	Reduction factor
[yes / no]			[lg]	[3 / 7 days]		[lg]
<b>upper basket</b>						
yes	106	A	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	114	E	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	108	B	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	110	C	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	116	F	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	112	D	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
<b>middle basket</b>						
yes	118	G	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	120	H	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	119	G	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
<b>lower basket</b>						
yes	109	B	100	+/+	2,00	6,82
yes	115	E	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	107	A	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	113	D	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	117	F	0	-/-	0	≥8,82
yes	111	C	0	-/-	0	≥8,82

**legend:**

- RF = Reduction factor  
= no turbidity due to microbial growth  
+ = turbidity due to microbial growth  
n.z. = uncountable

- A = HygCen – white PTFE PCD / PCD 1 mm Ø 850 mm long  
B = HygCen – white PTFE PCD / PCD 2 mm Ø 1200 mm long  
C = Teknomar – Steel Lumen PCD / PCD 0,7 mm Ø 500 mm long  
D = Teknomar – white PTFE PCD / PCD 0,4 mm Ø 900 mm long  
E = Teknomar – white PTFE PCD / PCD 2 mm Ø 7500 mm long  
F = Teknomar – white PTFE PCD / PCD 2 mm Ø 10000 mm long  
G = Teknomar – white PTFE PCD / PCD 2 mm Ø 15000 mm long  
H = Teknomar – white PTFE PCD / PCD 2 mm Ø 50000 mm long  
I = polyester suture bionova / *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* / in double tyvek

## 6. MATERIAL COMPATIBILITY

Sterilization is not only about killing — it is equally about protecting the material.

### **The HDROZONE™ system features:**

- Low-temperature operating regime
- Controlled oxidation
- Stabilized reactive species

### **Observed Outcomes**

- Metal surface stability
- Preservation of polymer integrity
- Absence of micro-damage

## 7. RESIDUALS AND SAFETY

**The most critical post-sterilization risk: Chemical residuals.**

### **The HDROZONE™ approach:**

- Reactive species decompose at process completion
- Residual formation is minimized

### **Result:**

- Operator safety
- Patient safety
- Reduction of toxic risks

## 8. IMPACT ON HOSPITAL OPERATIONS

### 8.1 Workflow

- Fewer cycle cancellations
  - More stable process
- More predictable outcomes

### 8.2 Economic Impact

- Extended service life of sterilized devices
  - Reduced consumable costs
- Lower maintenance requirements

### 8.3 Clinical Impact

- Reduced infection risk
- Enhanced patient safety
  - Maintained surgical continuity

## 9. COMPETITIVE PERSPECTIVE

Current systems:

- Manage the problem
- Operate within constraints

**HDROZONE™ redefines the problem.**

**Key Differentiators:**

Topic	Conventional System	HdrOzone
Lumen approach	Limited	Extended
Humidity	Problematic	Part of the process
Transport mechanism	Passive	Directed
Process stability	Sensitive	Stable

## 10. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY ADVANTAGES

- Lower chemical burden
- Reduced waste generation
- Minimal operator exposure

## 11. REGULATORY AND STANDARDS COMPLIANCE

### The HDROZONE™ platform:

- Is designed in accordance with international sterilization standards
- Provides traceability and documentation infrastructure

## 12. FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

Sterilization technology is evolving. The new reality:

- Longer lumens
- More sensitive devices
- Stricter regulatory requirements

**Under these conditions, diffusion-based systems will no longer be sufficient.**

## 13. CONCLUSION

HDROZONE is not an alternative to existing systems — it represents a new approach.

This next-generation sterilization technology:

- ✓ Solves the long-lumen problem
- ✓ Preserves material safety
- ✓ Minimizes residuals
- ✓ Delivers operational efficiency

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