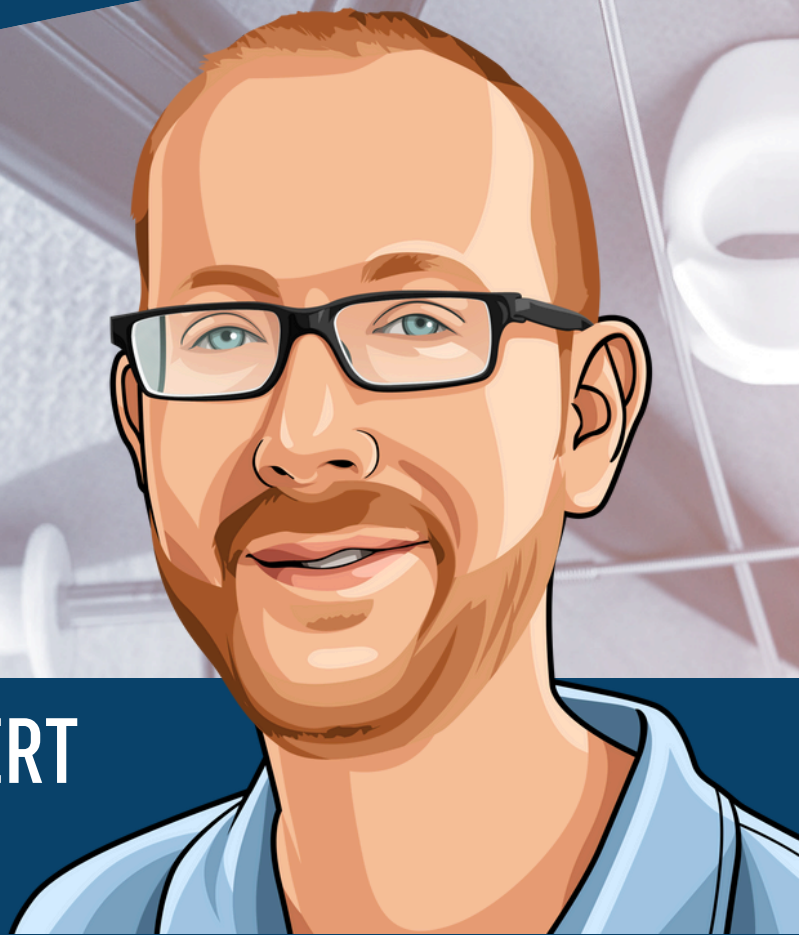


**CRUSHING DAMAGE:  
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS  
"JUST A LITTLE CRUSH"**



**FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPE EXPERT**

**BEYOND  
CLEAN**

**Michael Matthews**  
Director of Customer Training and  
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*Beyond Clean Flexible Endoscope Expert™:*

## Crushing Damage: There's No Such Thing as "Just a Little Crush"

*Michael Matthews, MBA, CLSSGB, CRCST, CIS, CHL  
Director of Customer Training and Education | Agiliti*

One of the most common and expensive forms of flexible endoscope damage\* we encounter is crush damage. The tightly packed internal components of the insertion tube and light guide tube make it susceptible to crush damage, which can lead to a 'crushing' defeat for both the device and your budget.

There are many potential ways that crush damage can occur, but the three most common culprits identified in our data include:

- **Collision of the light/video connector and insertion tube:** The light/video connector weighs as much as an orthopedic mallet. When the connector collides with the insertion tube it almost always results in some degree of crush damage. This often happens during transportation or in storage. To prevent this, use specialized transportation bins and tip protectors to hold the scope in place and reduce damage.
- **Mishandling during the procedure:** Once the light guide connector is inserted into the video processor, it often becomes an afterthought. Unfortunately, accidents happen. Sometimes, the physician or assistant can accidentally back into the connector, causing the tubing to bend sharply. There have also been situations where the patient stretcher has accidentally run over the light guide tube! In both situations, the processor was positioned too close to the physician and patient. Staff should be mindful of these potential issues while setting the room up for the procedure.
- **Bite damage:** Bite damage is a "smoking gun" type of damage because it is easy to identify and originates from one source – the patient. To prevent this, bite guards should always be used in procedures where a scope is fed through the patient's mouth. Even under sedation, a patient's gag and bite reflex remain active and can cause significant amounts of damage.

The good news is all three of these crush damage culprits can be addressed. Working with your repair vendor to identify when and how the crush damage occurred can help identify the type of training needed to reduce incidents and repair costs.

\*Identified through analysis of tens of thousands of repair reports. This series of expert articles focuses on the output of that research.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Michael at: [michael.matthews@agilitihealth.com](mailto:michael.matthews@agilitihealth.com)

*Beyond Clean Flexible Endoscope Expert™ Biography:*

# Michael Matthews

Director of Customer Training and Education



Michael Matthews, MBA, CLSSGB, CRCST, CIS, CHL currently serves as the Director of Customer Training and Education for Agiliti. He previously served as Director of Clinical Education and Training for Northfield Medical in addition to former roles of Territory Manager for the Little Rock, Arkansas area, and a Clinical Education Manager for the southeast region. Before working at Northfield, Michael served as the manager for sterile processing at Baptist-Health Medical Center-Conway in Arkansas. During this time, Michael also served as an Infection Preventionist on a PRN basis to consult on reprocessing services throughout the Baptist-Health system. Michael has previously served as a Sterile Processing Technician at Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's Healthcare (Catholic Health Initiatives) (2012-2013), Baptist East Hospital (2011-2012), both in Louisville, KY, and system manager for sterilization and high-level disinfection at Conway Regional Medical Center (2013-2016). He holds three Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) certifications for sterile processing. Michael has also served as a subject matter expert and participated in exam development for HSPA. Michael holds an MBA and has also been certified as a Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt. He has published articles in Infection Control Today, Becker's Hospital Review, Healthcare Purchasing News, as well as several LinkedIn articles in the sterile processing community. Michael is a former cohost of the Beyond Clean podcast, the premier podcast for sterile processing professionals throughout the world.

