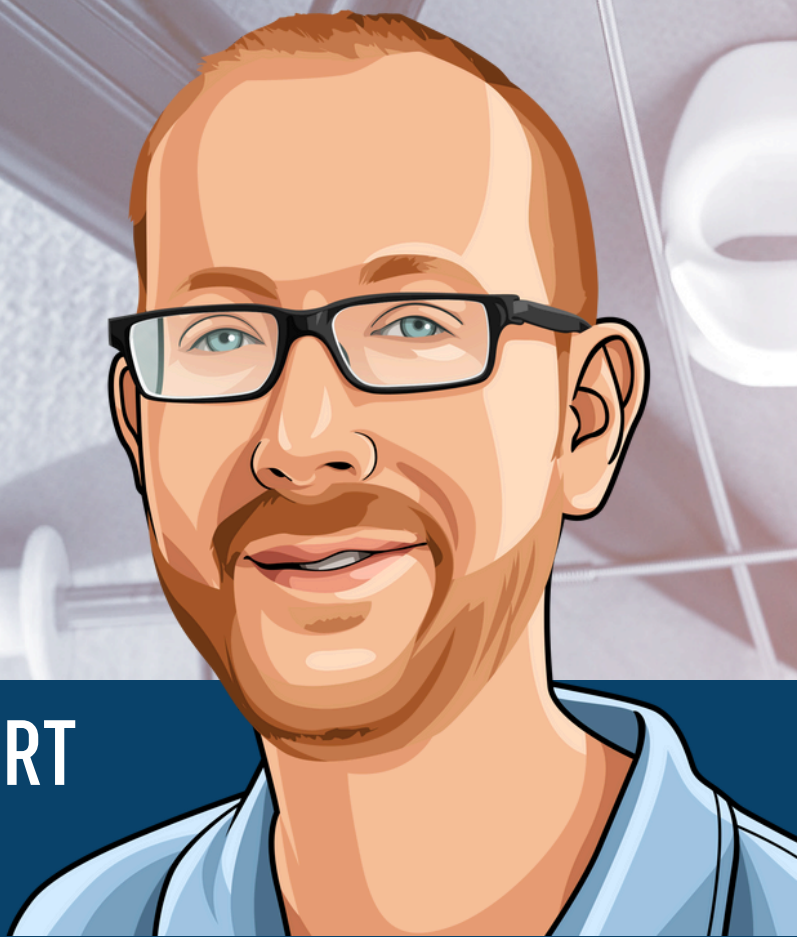




GET CONTROL OF YOUR CONTROL BODY KNOBS



FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPE EXPERT

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

Get Control of Your Control Body Knobs

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We looked at tens of thousands of our repair reports to identify the most common damage to flexible endoscopes. Unsurprisingly, many of the most common damage types involve some form of leaking and fluid ingress. However, our data demonstrates that while most leaks are found in the distal area, there are still many other areas where leaks can occur.

A Surprising Culprit – Control Body Knobs

One of those other locations for leaks is the control body knobs. The design of the knobs hides their most vulnerable point, namely the O-rings underneath the knobs, which seals the external knob from the internal angulation wires. These O-rings will wear down over time, but certain practices speed up the wear and tear that will become a leak.

For example, hospital staff and technicians often lay the scope knob-side down during transportation, manual cleaning, and/or the High-Level Disinfection (HLD) process. This puts pressure from the weight of the scope on the knobs and can lead to gaps forming in the O-ring, which allows fluid to enter the scope.

How Do You Solve the Problem?

If your repair reports include frequent repairs of the control knobs, it's a good indicator that somewhere in the process, a technician or other staff member is resting the scope with the control knobs down. An audit is always the best way to determine where the mistake is happening so education can be delivered to the responsible individual(s). Another easy way to help correct the issue is to post signage that says, "Remember: Control Knobs UP!" to remind technicians that this small change can help prevent costly damage.

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.

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