COVIDIEN™

Valleylab™

Electrodes

REF E1550

REF E1551G

REF E1551X

REF E1551-6

REF E1552

REF E1552-6

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Valleylab™

REF E1550	**Ball Electrode** **5 mm**
REF E1551G	**Blade Electrode** **2.4" (6.2 cm)**
REF E1551X	**Hex-locking Blade Electrode** **2.4" (6.2 cm)**
REF E1551-6	**Blade Electrode** **6.5" (16.51 cm)**
REF E1552	**Needle Electrode** **2.8" (7.2 cm)**
REF E1552-6	**Needle Electrode** **6.5" (16.51 cm)**

Do not use if package is opened or damaged

Not made with natural rubber latex

For use with a max peak voltage of 5600 V.

Indications for Use

The Valleylab electrodes are indicated for use in surgical procedures (general, neurosurgical, laparoscopic, orthopedic, gynecologic, etc.) where monopolar electrosurgical cutting and coagulation are normally used.

Warning

This product cannot be adequately cleaned and/or sterilized by the user in order to facilitate safe reuse, and is therefore intended for single use. Attempts to clean or sterilize these devices may result in a bio-incompatibility, infection, or product failure risks to the patient.

Danger: Explosion Hazard Do not use electrosurgery in the presence of flammable anesthetics.

Warning

Fire Hazard Both oxygen (O_2) and nitrous oxide (N_2O) support combustion. Watch for enriched O_2 and N_2O atmospheres near the surgical site, especially during head and neck surgery. Enriched O_2 atmospheres may result in fires and burns to patients or surgical personnel.

Warning

Fire/Explosion Hazard The following substances contribute to increased fire and explosion hazards in the operating room:

- Oxygen-enriched environments
- Oxidizing agents such as nitrous oxide (N_2O) atmospheres
  - Verify all anesthesia circuit connections are leak free before and during use of electrosurgery.
  - Verify endotracheal tubes are leak free and that the cuff seals properly to prevent oxygen leaks.
  - If an uncuffed tube is in use, pack the throat with wet sponges around the uncuffed tube.
  - If possible, stop supplemental oxygen at least one minute before and during use of electrosurgery.
- Alcohol-based skin prepping agents and tinctures
  - Activate the electrosurgical unit only after vapors from skin prep solutions and tinctures have dissipated.

Warning

- Naturally occurring flammable gases (such as methane) that may accumulate in body cavities

Fire Hazard The sparking and heating associated with electrosurgery can provide an ignition source.

Observe fire precautions at all times:

- When using electrosurgery in the same room with gases or flammable substances, prevent pooling of fluids and the accumulation of gases under surgical drapes or near the surgical site.
- Tissue buildup (eschar) on the tip of an active electrode poses a fire hazard, especially in oxygen-enriched environments such as in throat or mouth procedures. Eschar plus high oxygen may create embers. Keep the electrode clean and free of all debris.
- Facial and other body hair is flammable. Water-soluble surgical lubricating jelly may be used to cover hair close to the surgical site to decrease flammability.

Warning

The electrode must fit completely and securely into the pencil. An incorrectly seated electrode may result in burns to the patient or surgical personnel.

Fire Hazard Always place the active electrode in a clean, dry, insulated safety holster when not in use.

- Electrosurgical accessories that are activated or hot from use can cause unintended burns to the patient or surgical personnel.
- Electrosurgical accessories may cause fire or burn if placed close to or in contact with flammable materials such as gauze or surgical drapes. Place longer electrodes such as extended electrodes away from the patient and drapes.

Confirm proper electrosurgical settings prior to and during a procedure. Use the lowest power settings to achieve the desired effect. If increased power settings are requested, check the patient return electrode and all accessory connections before major power setting adjustments.

Warning

Some surgeons may elect to “buzz the hemostat” during surgical procedures. It is not recommended, and the hazards of such a practice probably cannot be eliminated. Burns to the surgeon’s hands may result. To minimize the risk, take these precautions:

- Do not lean on the patient, the table, or the retractors while buzzing the hemostat.
- Activate cut rather than coag. Cut has a lower voltage than coag.
- Use the lowest power setting possible for the minimum time necessary to achieve hemostasis.
- Activate the generator after the accessory makes contact with the hemostat. Do not arc to the hemostat.
- “Buzz the hemostat” below hand level (as close as possible to the patient) to reduce the opportunity for current to follow alternate paths through the surgeon’s hands.

Warning

- Firmly grasp as much of the hemostat as possible before activating the generator. This disperses the current over a larger area and minimizes the current concentration at the fingertips.

Precaution

Always use the lowest power setting that achieves the desired surgical effect. Use the active electrode for the minimum time necessary in order to reduce the possibility of unintended burn injury.

Pediatric applications and/or procedures performed on small anatomic structures may require reduced power settings. The higher the current flow and the longer the current is applied, the greater the possibility of unintended thermal damage to tissue, especially during use on small appendages.

The needles are fragile and should be handled with care to avoid damage to the needle and injury to hospital personnel.

Precaution

Before use, examine the electrosurgical unit and accessories for defects. Do not use cables or accessories with damaged (cracked, burned, or taped) insulation or connectors.

Do not modify or add to the insulation of active electrodes.

Activate the electrosurgical unit **only** when ready to deliver electrosurgical current and the active tip is in view (especially if looking through an endoscope).

Deactivate the electrosurgical unit **before** the tip leaves the surgical site.

The electrodes are intended for single use only. Safely **discard after use** to prevent injury to hospital personnel. These electrodes are not designed to withstand resterilization. **Do not resterilize**.

Important

Wipe the electrode often with moist gauze or other material.

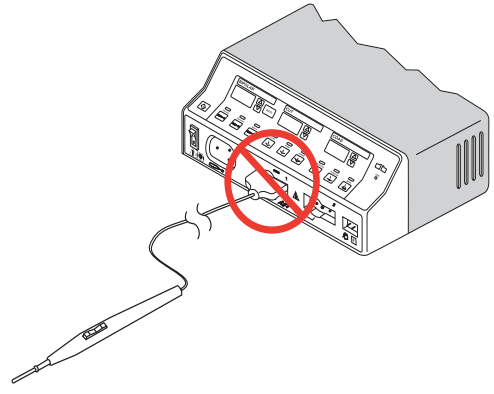
Notice

Needle electrodes are designed for precise low power use during monopolar electrosurgery. Using a needle at high power settings for extended periods of time may result in damage to the needle. Use low power settings for short periods of time to prevent needle damage.

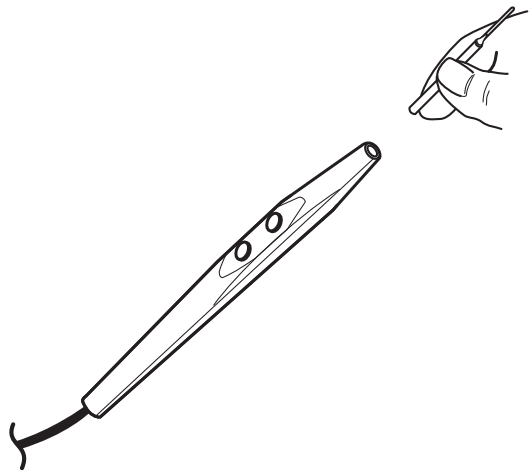
Instructions for Use

Note: The electrodes can be used with both disposable and reusable handswitching and footswitching electrosurgical pencils.

1. Ensure the pencil is not connected to the generator.

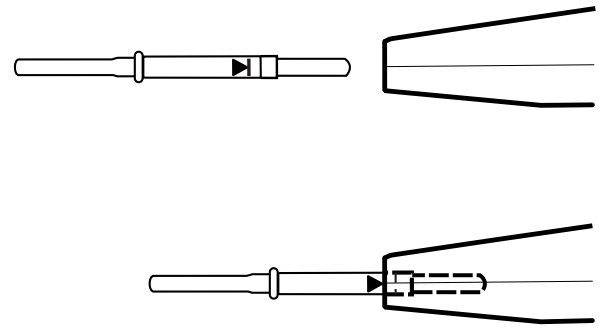


2. Grasp the insulating sleeve on the electrode. Insert the electrode into the pencil.



3. Ensure the insulating sleeve fits securely inside the nose of the pencil so that the nose overlaps the insulating sleeve by at least 1/8″ (0.3 cm).

4. Hex electrodes have a depth indicator. The line on the depth indicator should be flush with the tip of the handswitching pencil.



5. A tip protector covers the end of some electrodes. If a tip protector is present, remove it before use.