

# MICROBIOLOGY

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



MID – Lecture 7

# Sterilization & Disinfection (Pt.2)

﴿ وَإِن تَتَوَلَّوْا يَسْتَبَدِلْ قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَكُونُوا أَمْثَلَكُمْ ﴾

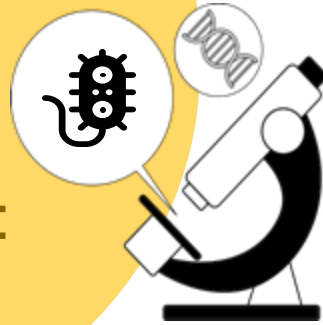
اللهم استعملنا ولا تستبدلنا

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- Raneem AH



# Quiz for sterilization & disinfection pt.1

say bismillah يَا

اللّٰهُمَّ عَلِّمْنَا مَا يَنْفَعُنَا وَانْفَعْنَا بِمَا عَلَّمْتَنَا وَزِدْنَا عِلْمًا



Lecture 8 – part 2

# **Sterilization & Disinfection**



# Objectives

## Physical methods for sterilization

**Moist heat (Autoclave)**

**Dry heat**

**Ionizing radiation**

**Filtration**

# Physical methods for sterilization

## I) Moist heat above 100°C (Autoclave)

**\*Recall that there are three levels of Moist Heat Treatment used in microbial control:**

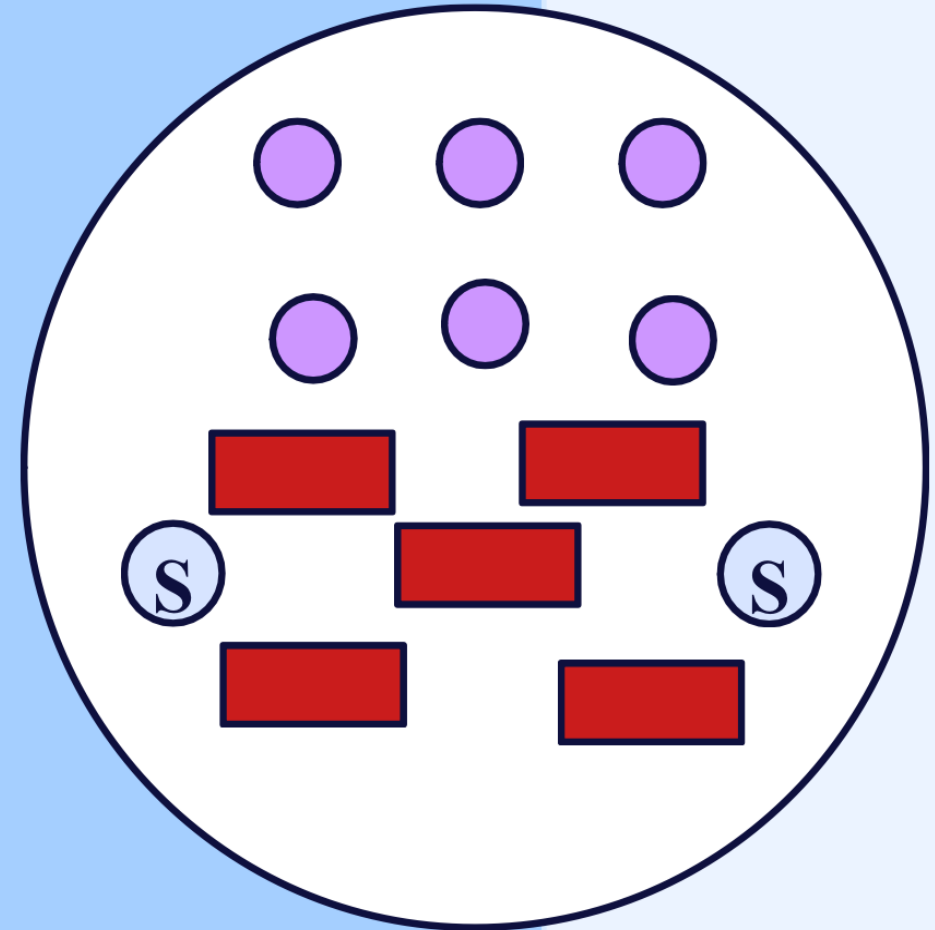
- 1. Below 100°C: This level is primarily used for disinfection, effectively killing most bacteria but not all resistant spores.**
- 2. At 100°C: Boiling at this temperature also serves for disinfection, killing many pathogens but not all spores.**
- 3. Above 100°C : This level is used for sterilization.**

# Sterilization

- What do we mean by sterilization?

**Killing all microbes including  
bacterial spore.**

- **sterilization is an absolute term**, it means “complete eradication of all microorganisms,” while disinfection is less absolute, as it varies in effectiveness based on the microorganisms targeted.



## Moist heat above 100°C (Autoclave)



Steam



Pressure



Temp.

Time.

- An autoclave operates on the same principle as a pressure cooker.
- pressure cooker has a container that is a sealed pot that holds water, When heated, the water boils and turns into steam. Because the steam can't escape when it is closed, the pressure inside the cooker increases, which raises the boiling point of the water above 100°C. So, at certain time it will achieve sterilization process.



- An autoclave is a device that uses high-pressure steam to sterilize equipment and supplies. The key components include:

**Electrical Power** The autoclave is powered by electricity, which heats the water in the chamber to generate steam. Inside the autoclave, there is shelf where items to be sterilized are placed. There's safety valve is included to release excess pressure if it exceeds safe limits.

The autoclave is equipped with a pressure gauge to measure pressure and tight-fitting lid that seals the chamber, After the sterilization cycle is complete, the discharge tip allows for the safe release of steam and pressure from the chamber.

Pressure: 2

3

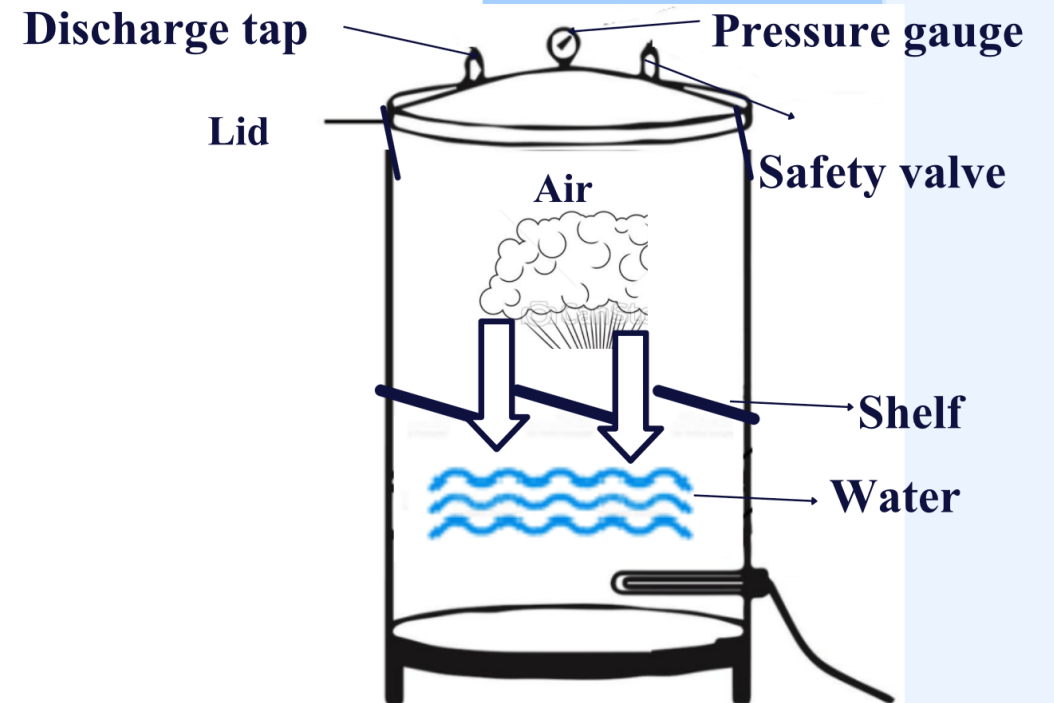
Heat: 121 °C

134°C

Time: 20 min.

6 min.

## Moist heat above 100°C (Autoclave)



Electrical power



# Autoclave (conventional) Process

The autoclave operates by using electrical power to heat the water within its chamber, initiating the boiling process and generating steam. As steam is produced, it fills the container.

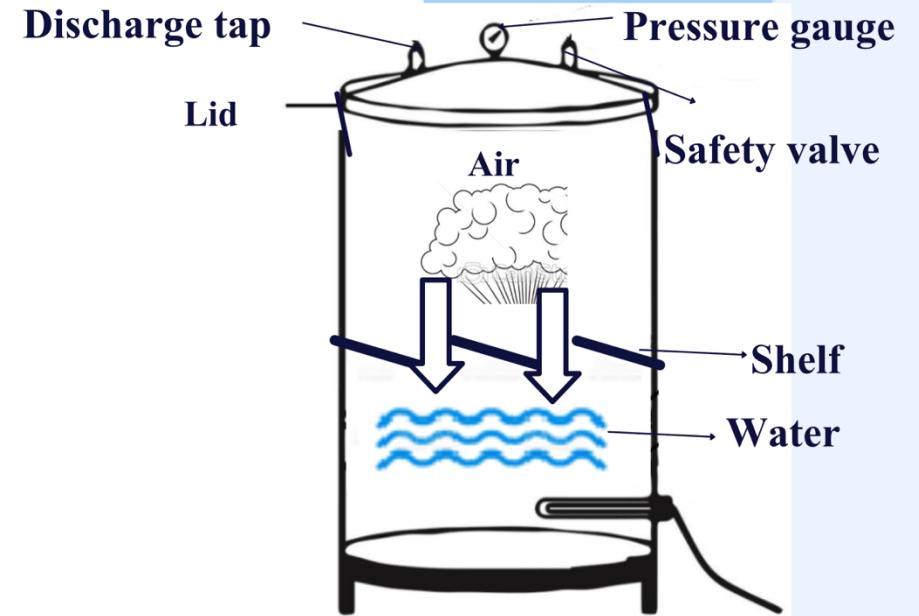
Initially, the chamber contains some air, which is displaced by the rising steam. The discharge tip allows for the release of some of this initial steam and air mixture, facilitating the expulsion of air from the chamber.

As the process progresses, the air is completely expelled, and the chamber becomes entirely filled with steam, particularly after sealing the discharge tip. This steam generates substantial pressure on the water inside the container, significantly elevating the temperature beyond 121°. The combination of high pressure and elevated temperature creates the ideal conditions for effective sterilization, ensuring that any microorganisms present are eradicated.

Moist heat above 100°C (Autoclave)

- When we have these conditions, this achieves sterilization.
- If we increase the pressure to 3 atm, the temperature will rise to 134°C, and the sterilization time will be 6 minutes. However, this will be very dangerous.

Pressure: 2 atm	3
Heat: 121 °C	134°C
Time: 20 min.	6 min.



Electrical power

# Moist heat above 100°C (Autoclave)

## Prevacuum autoclave

## Gravity displacement autoclave

➤ **The principle of an advanced autoclave system:**

In this advanced type of autoclave, steam is introduced from an external source through a tube, facilitating the rapid replacement of air within the chamber. The density of steam is significantly lower than that of air, which allows the lighter steam to displace the denser air more quickly and efficiently. By efficiently removing the denser air, the external steam creates a more uniform and effective sterilization environment.



# Moist heat above 100°C (Autoclave)

- The principle of how autoclaves work involves two key processes:

## Denaturation

- Denaturation is the process where proteins lose their natural structure due to the application of heat, steam, or pressure. This loss of structure disrupts the functions of essential proteins and enzymes, rendering the microorganisms inactive and unable to reproduce.

## Coagulation

- Coagulation is the process by which denatured proteins clump together, leading to irreversible changes in their structure. In microorganisms, coagulation further disrupts cellular functions and integrity, ultimately resulting in cell death.



# Moist heat above 100°C (Autoclave)

➤ **Autoclaves are used for a variety of purposes:**

**Surgical instruments**

- In surgical instruments, we actually prefer another method than autoclaving because, during the process of autoclaving, a little bit of water may remain in the container. This residual moisture can lead to corrosion (rust) unless we use another technique that ensures better drying.

**Bed linen**

**Surgical dressings**

**Gauze**

**Cotton**



# Moist heat above 100°C (Autoclave)

## Advantages

**High penetration**

**Latent heat**

**Non-toxic**

**Rapid (20 min)**



# Moist heat above 100°C (Autoclave)

## Disadvantages

- we are talking about 121°C, not all objects are suitable for this method.  
**Not suitable for heat-sensitive objects**

**Sterilized objects -**

**moist**  
**making rust**



# Physical methods for sterilization

## I) Moist heat above 100°C (Autoclave)

### Monitoring of steam sterilizer

How??



*Let's see how*

# Monitoring of steam sterilizer

1

## Mechanical indicators

- It is a machine that indicates the pressure, temperature, and duration of the sterilization process.





## Monitoring of steam sterilizer

2

**Chemical  
indicators**

**Before**

**After**

- **In chemical indicators, we have filter paper that contains specific chemicals, which are colorless at first. If it changes color , that means sterilization is complete.**

# Monitoring of steam sterilizer

3

**Biological  
indicators**

See next slid :)



*Geobacillus Stearothermophilus*

*G. Stearothermophilus*

➤ **About biological indicators:**

**it involves a specific type of spore forming bacterium (Geobacillus stearothermophilus), which is used to test the efficacy of sterilization processes, primarily autoclaving, with the main aim of killing spores. We place this bacterium in the items being sterilized, and after the autoclave cycle is complete, we take out the test tube and make a subculture, if growth occurs in the culture then this indicates failure of sterilization; if there is no growth, it means that the sterilization was successful.**

# Physical methods for sterilization

**Dry heat** (Three ways)

# Dry heat

**1) Incineration**

**2) Direct flame**

**3) Hot air oven**



# 1) Incineration

**Burning of  
Contamination  
Materials**



## 2) Direct Flame

- Must reach the **red flame** ( red flame=sterilization).

**Loop**

**Points of**

**forceps --> Mouth of test tube**



- We use loops in cultures preparation .
- The loop should be sterilized to prevent false results.

### 3) Hot air oven

An electrically powered device

**Heat 160°C -2 hr.**

**Heat 170°C – 1hr.**

**Both effectively achieve sterilization.**





### 3) Hot air oven

➤ **Some uses:**

**Sterilization of**

**Glass-ware**

**Powders** → **This is done to avoid altering the properties of the powder, so it does not dissolve or form a solution.**

**Oils**

**Surgical instruments**

**Hot air ovens are preferable for sterilization of surgical instruments compared to autoclaves.**



### 3) Hot air oven

#### Advantages

**Non-toxic**

**Inexpensive**

**Not corrosive**



### 3) Hot air oven

#### Disadvantages

**Slow heat penetration**

**Time consuming**

**Not suitable for heat-sensitive  
objects**



# **Physical methods for sterilization**

## **Radiation**

# Radiation

**Emitted from**  
**Radioactive**  
**Cobalt 60**  
  
**(Gamma rays)**



- **Cobalt-60 emits gamma rays that can damage DNA.**  
Leading to the death of bacteria .

# Radiation

**Breaks DAN**



# Radiation

used in:-

**Gloves**



**Catheters**



**Surgical sutures**



# Physical methods for sterilization

## Filtration

سبحان الله وبحمده سبحان الله العظيم.  
خلصتوا أكثر من نصف الملف (:)



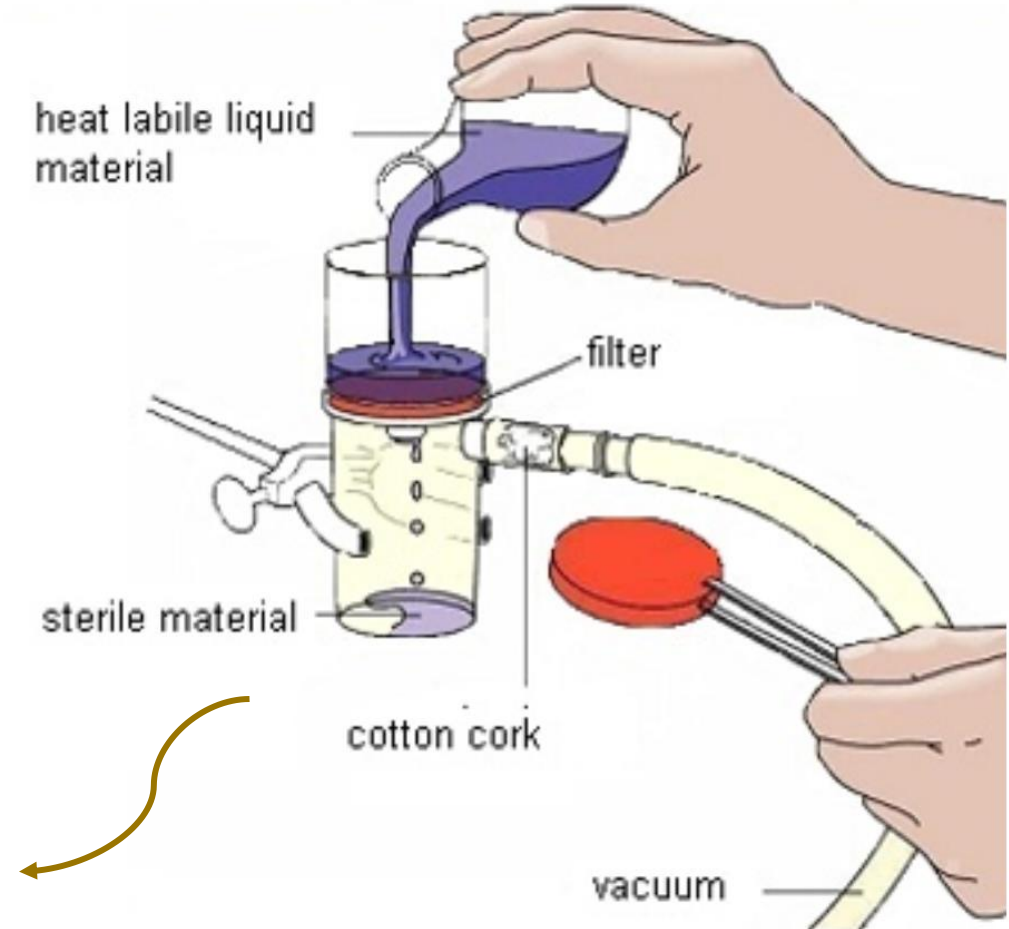
# Filtration

## Remove microorganisms from biological fluids

Boiling destroys their characteristic.

e.g. Serum, Plasma, Hormones &  
Vitamins

- Pass the fluid through a tube containing a filter. The filter has pores that allow the liquid to pass through while trapping microorganisms.
- This membrane is usually made from **cellulose nitrate** or **polyester**.



# Filtration

Very small pores prevent the passage of viruses.

**Membranes made from:-**

**Cellulose nitrate**

**Polyester**



# Filtration

## HEPA filters

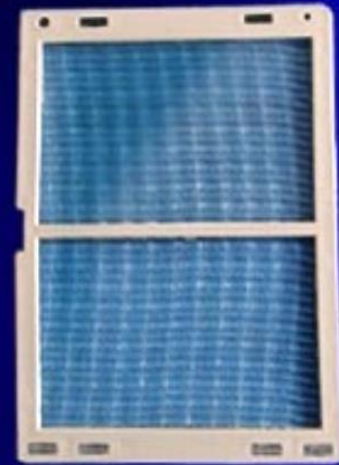
(High Efficiency Particle Arresters)

➤ Used in:

Operation room

Drug filling cubicles

Filter-90 series



# Chemical methods for sterilization

Gaseous

Ethylene oxide

Peracetic acid

We will focus on:

**Gaseous**



# Chemical methods for sterilization

## 1) Gaseous

### Plasma gas sterilizers

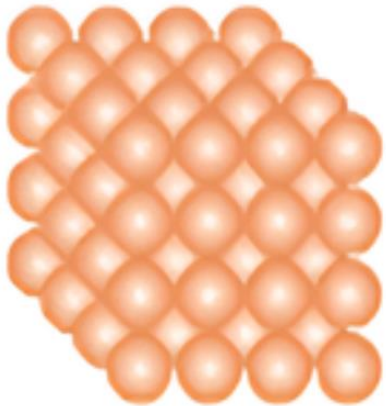
قال ابن تيمية رحمه الله " وليكن هجيراه لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله، فإنها بها تحمل الأثقال،  
وتُكابد الأهوال، ويُنال رفيع الأحوال ".  
وهي كنزٌ من كنوز الجنة.

# Plasma gas sterilizers

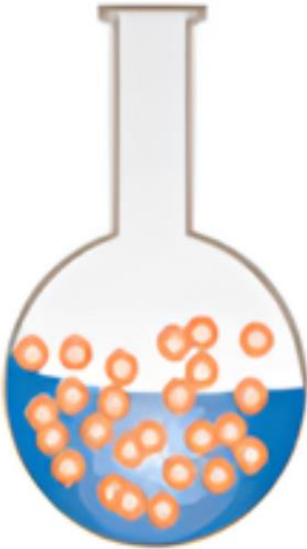
## PHASES OF MATTER

An ionized gas (cloud of gases with electrons and ions) is produced as a result of radiation exposure.

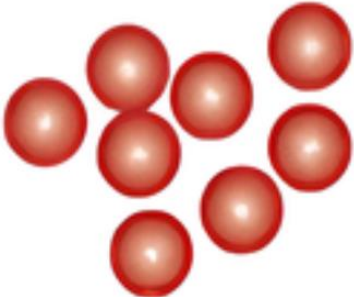
(Gas & particle)



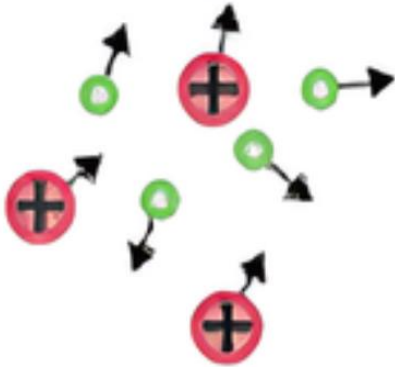
Solid



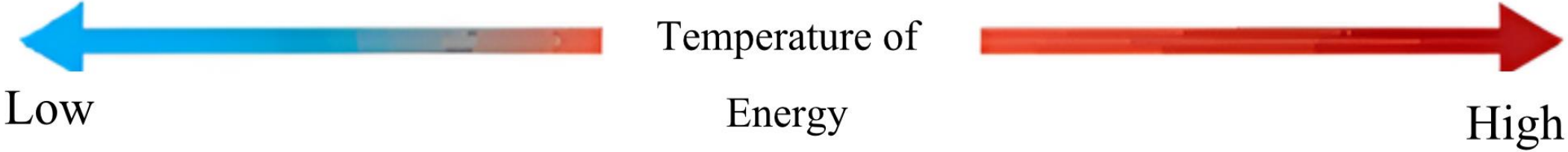
Liquid



Gas

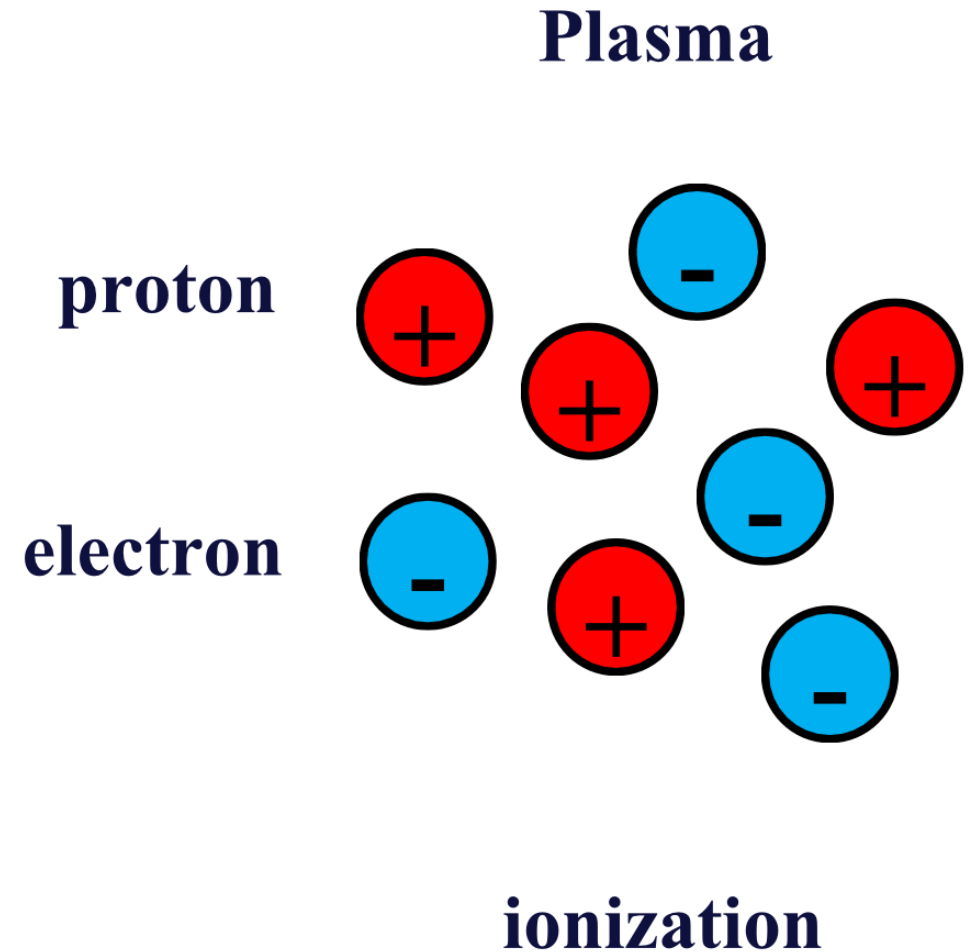


4<sup>th</sup> state of matter  
plasma



# Plasma gas sterilizers

**Plasma = any gas that  
contains electrons, ions**



# Plasma gas sterilizers

➤ **Examples:**

- 1) Hydrogen peroxide gas plasma**
- 2) Ethelene oxide gas sterilization**
- 3) Peracetic acid gas sterilization**

➤ They all share the same mechanism...



# 1) Hydrogen peroxide gas plasma

Both  $H_2O_2$  and the resulting **free radicals** contribute to bacterial killing.

Liquid hydrogen peroxide gas

Injected under pressure

Into the chamber

We expose it to  
Microwave

Evaporating  $H_2O_2$

Ending up with

Kill all organism

Free radical

Emitting free radicals

# 1) Plasma gas sterilizers

Used for:-

- **Heat sensitive devices e.g.**
- **Plastic** Because it cannot withstand heat.
- **Laparoscopes** مناظير البطن
- **Arthroscopes** مناظير المفاصل



# 1) Plasma gas sterilizers

## Advantages

- **Non toxic**
- **Suitable for Heat sensitive**



# 1) Plasma gas sterilizers

## Disadvantages

- **Total time of sterilization cycle is about 50 minutes**



# **Chemical methods for sterilization**

## **I) Gaseous**

### **2) Ethylene oxide (EO)**

Same mechanism

## 2) Ethylene oxide (EO)

**EO gas is a highly lethal alkylating agent**

**Kill all organism including spores**



## 2) Ethylene oxide (EO)

- **Items exposed to EO at 55°C for 3-6 hr.**
- **Then aerated for 8-12 hr. to remove any trace of the gas**



# **Chemical methods for sterilization**

**I) Gaseous**

**3) Peracetic acid**



### 3) Peracetic acid

**Acetic acid and hydrogen peroxide**

- **It exists in liquid or gas form.**



### 3) Peracetic acid

➤ How does it work as a sterilant?

**Denaturation**

**Oxidation (enzymes)**

**Disrupt cell wall**



**The best sterilant**

## Chemical solution

**Glutaraldehyde 2%**

**Peracetic acid**



## Chemical solution

**Glutaraldehyde 2%**

**High level disinfectant ( for 20 min.)**

**Sterilization ( 10hrs )**



# Sterilization methods

Physical methods	About the method	Uses	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Autoclave</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is a moist heat above 100° C.</li> <li>Influencing factors: Pressure &amp; Heat  <b>Duration: 20min</b>      2 ~&gt; 121 C  <b>Duration: 6min</b>      3 ~&gt; 134C</li> <li>Prevacum (Gravity displacement) autoclave: external steam pumping.</li> <li>Mechanism of work: <b>Denaturation &amp; Coagulation.</b></li> <li>Monitoring: <b>1)</b> Mechanical indicators. <b>2)</b> Chemical indicators. <b>3)</b> Biological indicators.</li> </ul>	Sterilization of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical instruments.</li> <li>Bed linen.</li> <li>Surgical dressing.</li> <li>Gauze.</li> <li>Cotton.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High penetration.</li> <li>Latent heat.</li> <li>Not-toxic.</li> <li>Rapid.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not suitable for heat-sensitive objects.</li> <li>Sterilized objects are moist.</li> </ul>
<b>Dry heat</b>	1) Incineration: burning. 2) Direct flame. 3) Hot air oven: (160 C-2 h) or (170 C-1 h). <b>We will discuss only the hot air oven method in the adjacent columns.</b>	Sterilization of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glass-ware.</li> <li>Powders.</li> <li>Oils.</li> <li>Surgical instruments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-toxic.</li> <li>Inexpensive.</li> <li>Not corrosive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slow heat penetration.</li> <li>Time consuming.</li> <li>Not suitable for heat-sensitive objects.</li> </ul>
<b>Radiation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Example: Cobalt-60.</li> <li>Emits <math>\gamma</math> rays.</li> <li>Breaks <b>DNA.</b></li> </ul>	Sterilization of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gloves.</li> <li>Catheters.</li> <li>Surgical sutures.</li> </ul>	—	—
<b>Filtration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sterilize solutions.</li> <li>Filter membrane made from: <b>Cellulose nitrate &amp; polyester.</b></li> <li>HEPA filters: Operations &amp; Drug filling cubicles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HEPA applications.</li> </ul>	—	—

# Sterilization methods

Chemical methods	About the method	Uses	Advantages	Disadvantages
Gases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plasma gas sterilizers: <b>1)</b> hydrogen peroxide gas plasma. <b>2)</b> Ethelene oxide. <b>3)</b> Peracetic acid “BEST STERILANT”.</li> <li>They all have same mechanism that involves <b>Microwave radiation</b>.</li> <li>EO is lethal alkylating agent. (Exposure duration: 3-6 h @55 C ) then (Aerate duration: 8-12 h).</li> </ul>	Sterilization of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heat sensitive devices.</li> <li>Plastic.</li> <li>Laparoscopes &amp; Arthroscopes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not-toxic(the plasma gas sterilization)</li> <li>Suitable for Heat sensitive instruments .</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EO gas is highly lethal alkylating agent</li> <li>Long duration (50 minutes).</li> </ul>
Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glutaraldehyde 2%.</li> <li>Acts as both: high level disinfectant ~&gt;(20 minutes). Sterilant (10 h).</li> </ul>	—	—	—

For any feedback, scan the code or click on it.



Corrections from previous versions:

Versions	Slide # and Place of Error	Before Correction	After Correction
V0 → V1	23(last note in the slide)  54(gases advantages &disadvantages)	-The <u>culture</u> should be sterilized  -Not toxic	-The <u>loop</u> should be sterilized  -Not toxic(the plasma gas sterilization) -EO gas is highly leathal alkylating agent ( <b>added to disadvantages</b> )
V1 → V2			

Additional Resources:

رسالة من الفريق العلمي:

(وَقُلْ رَبِّ اغْفِرْ وَارْحَمْ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّاحِمِينَ)

اللهم انصر أهل غزة وثبتهم واربط على قلوبهم وارحم  
شهداءهم وتقبلهم في عليين  
اللهم ارحم ضعفنا وقلة حيلتنا واستعملنا ولا تستبدلنا يا  
رب العالمين