

# Physician Handling Tips to Minimize Flexible Endoscope Damage

Committed to Helping You Get the Most Out of Your Endoscopy Equipment



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This information is intended to highlight common causes of endoscope damage and provide tips to help reduce repairs so you can keep your equipment functioning at peak performance.

## TIP 1:

### Do Not Rest or Lean on the Insertion Tube Closest to the Control Body

There should be at least one inch between the insertion tube and the horizontal surface (bed) in order to prevent unnecessary stress to the endoscope. Stress at this point can lead to exterior insertion tube buckling and interior damage to the channels and fiber bundle. The use of bite blocks and properly size endotracheal tubes can also prevent insertion tube damages.

## DON'T



*Don't place excessive pressure on insertion tube at the boot of the endoscope.*

## DO



*Do avoid bending the insertion tube within 10 cm from the junction of the boot of the endoscope.*

### DAMAGE IMPACT

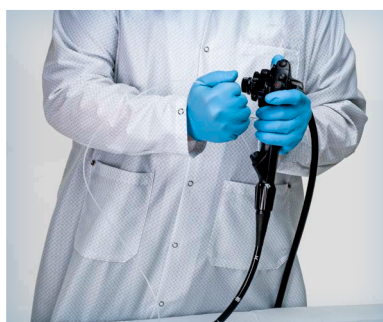
Repetitive insertion tube overbending may lead to increased repair frequency and expenses throughout the life of the endoscope.

## TIP 2:

### Ensure Proper Use of Accessories and Don't Use Excessive Force

Ensure all accessories are in working condition before using. Ensure they are not advanced or removed in the open position. Avoid force when resistance is encountered while passing accessories. Employ a series of short strokes to pass accessories. Loosen up on the controls, slightly withdraw the scope if necessary, pass the accessory, and then return to the target site.

## DON'T



*Don't force accessories through restrictions in the biopsy channel.*

## DO



*Do use slow, short strokes when inserting accessories into the biopsy channel.*

### DAMAGE IMPACT

Channel damage may cause fluid invasion which may lead to a full refurbishment due to major internal damage.

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## TIP 3:

### Avoid Impact to the Distal End

The most common damage occurs at the distal end of the endoscope. Always control the distal end and avoid impact. The distal end should always be the first thing you pick up and the last thing you set down. Hold the endoscope insertion tube close to the distal end.

## DON'T



Don't strike the distal end of the scope on hard surfaces.

## DO



Do control the distal end during handling, usage and storage.

### DAMAGE IMPACT

Repetitive forcing of control knobs may lead to increased repair frequency and expenses throughout the life of an endoscope.

## TIP 4:

### Do Not Force Control Knob Rotation

Continuing to angulate a scope when the bending section movement is restricted could result in stretched or broken angulation wires. Over rotating the knobs will result in stretched wires, causing looseness and the inability to achieve maximum deflection. Also, ensure the endoscope is always placed knobs-up post-procedure to avoid damages to the control section of the instrument.

## DON'T



Don't force control knob rotation to avoid stretched wires.

### DAMAGE IMPACT

Reduced angulation and frequent angulation repairs could lead to broken wires requiring a full refurbishment.

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