



## Optimising Anaesthetic Practice

### INCREASING PROTECTION DURING SURGERY AND ICU FROM COVID-19.

Switching to sterile, single use EyePro™ removes a potential Covid19 transmission route and will protect you and your patients. EyePro™ is the only sterile eyelid occlusion dressing available.

The WHO reported in its Scientific briefing on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020<sup>(1)</sup> that a person can not only become infected with Covid19 from droplet transmission through the conjunctiva but also through fomites in the immediate environment. It concluded that,

***“transmission of the COVID-19 virus can occur by direct contact with infected people and indirect contact with surfaces in the immediate environment or with objects used on the infected person.”***

In addition:

In its Clinical care for severe acute respiratory infection: toolkit. COVID-19 adaptation,<sup>(2)</sup> the WHO indicates again that Covid19 can be transmitted through Fomite/contact.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control technical report of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition<sup>(3)</sup> reinforces the fact that,

***“Other routes implicated in transmission of coronaviruses include contact with contaminated fomites.”***

The ECDC goes further and urges **caution** because of the lack of clarity surrounding

- ***“The relative role of droplet, fomite and aerosol transmission for SARS-CoV-2”***
- ***“the protection provided by the different components of personal protective equipment (PPE)”***
- ***“the transmissibility of the virus at different stages of the disease”***

To Reduce the risk of transmission of Covid 19, the WHO and the ECDC recommend the use of single use or disposable patient care equipment wherever possible.

**Research shows that as many as 51% of partly used rolls of medical tape carry MRSA and/or VRE.<sup>(4)</sup> It is now more important than ever that eliminating such a route of fomite transmission should be an essential part of prevention.**

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It is time to stop using medical tape on your patient's eyes in the operating theatre and ICU, removing a potential Covid19 transmission route and switch to sterile, single use EyePro™, the only sterile eyelid occlusion dressing available.



### References:

1. World Health Organisation scientific brief 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020, "Modes of transmission of virus causing COVID-19: implications for IPC precaution recommendations."
2. Clinical care for severe acute respiratory infection: toolkit. COVID-19 adaptation. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (WHO/2019nCoV/SARI toolkit/2020.1).
3. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control technical report, "Infection prevention and control and preparedness for Covid-19 in healthcare settings." Third update 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
4. Harris PN et al. Adhesive tape in the health care setting: another high-risk fomite? Med J Aust. 2012;196(1):34