Analysis of the integrity and breakage rate of covers used in transvaginal ultrasound examinations

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Introduction

Transducer covers should be used for any ultrasound procedure where there is contact with blood, body fluids or mucous membranes¹. The type and quality of transducer covers used in practice differ widely with variable breakage rates of condoms and commercial covers².

Aims

To assess the integrity of the commonly used condoms and commercial probe covers for transvaginal ultrasound examinations in Australia.

Methods

Multi-site study with random distribution of covers to sonographers and sonologists. Latex and latex-free probe covers and condoms were examined. Covers were collected post-transvaginal ultrasound and subjected to a water leak test. A total of 500 of each brand type of cover was assessed. 5000 covers were tested over 8 months.

Conclusion

Condoms breakage: 0.4-13%
Commercial covers breakage: 0-5%

Covers are not 100% reliable and high-level disinfection of transducers is recommended especially if the transducer is in contact with blood and bodily fluids.

References: