

## 7. PATIENT CLEANUP

When the EEG recording is finished, remove the cap, ear electrodes and body harness. Wipe the patient's forehead and ears with a gauze square. Lightly wipe the gauze square over the hair.

Brushing or combing the hair will remove all visual evidence of the gel. The patient's next shampoo will easily and completely eliminate any residue.

## 8. CAP CLEANING AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

ECI Electro-Caps must be cleaned frequently for sanitary reasons. In addition, if all the gel is not washed from a cap, the material will lose its elasticity; the life of the cap will be dramatically shortened. **USE ONLY IVORY® OR PALMOLIVE® LIQUID DETERGENT FOR WASHING ECI ELECTRO-CAPS!** Other soaps and detergents, especially those common in hospitals, leave a residual film on the electrode metal. After a few washings the soap film builds up and coats the electrode. Excessively high electrode impedances and overwhelming electrode artifacts result.

The dye from the cap material may bleed during the first few washings. *Do not wash different colored caps together.* Before washing a cap, always unsnap and remove the cap straps.

The cap straps are washed separately because the strap material is thick; drying may require several hours. It is advisable, however, to wash the straps thoroughly with a brush and soapy water once a week.



Figure 26

**TO WASH CAPS** (Figure 26)...

1. Unsnap and remove the straps; place to one side.
2. Fill sink with LUKEWARM tap water.
3. Add a small amount of Ivory® liquid detergent to the water.
4. Submerge *ONLY* the cap. **DO NOT** allow the connector to get wet. Let the cap sit in the water a few minutes.
5. Clean the gel from the electrode mounts with an "orange stick" or cotton swab. Another method is to alternate each mount, in turn, under rapidly running water. The water pressure will force most of the softened gel from the mounts.
6. Rinse the cap thoroughly.
7. Blot the cap gently in a terry cloth towel or hang it up to dry.

**IMPORTANT**

When drying the cap, **HANG IT SO THE CAP IS LOWER THAN THE CONNECTOR.** If the connector is lower than the cap, water will run down the multicolored cable into the connector. The water will quickly corrode the terminals; artifacts will result.

8. When the cap is dry, replace the straps.
9. Once a month, scrape the metal electrode disks thoroughly with an orange stick or the wooden end of a cotton swab. Oxide gradually builds up on the electrode disks and should be periodically scraped away.

In most geographic areas, an ECI Electro-Cap will air dry in about one hour. However, high humidity will extend the drying time. The straps will normally dry overnight if they are washed at the end of the work day.

If there is not enough time for the cap to air dry between patients, blot the cap with a terry cloth towel. The cap may feel damp to the touch, but will be sufficiently dry for immediate application.

A small hair dryer may also be used to quickly dry a cap. However, use only a "WARM" setting. The "HIGH" or "HOT" setting on some hair dryers is too hot and will weaken the elastic material; the cap life will be severely shortened.

## 9. ELECTRO-CAP AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

If an Electro-Cap is used on a patient known to have, or is suspected of having a communicable disease, please refer to your facility's infection control procedures.

Electro-Cap stocks a "cold sterilizing solution", Metricide, or your facility may have another product similar to Metricide approved for use as a cold sterilizing solution. Follow the instructions from your infection control procedures and on the selected product labeling.

### NOTES

1. Discard the used blunted needle according to your facility's infection control disposal procedures. (For your convenience, economic "bulk packs" of blunted needles [E8B-pkg. of 100] are available from Electro-Cap International.)
2. A cold gas sterilization process, properly used, may also be effective and will not damage or affect the Electro-Cap's testing performance.
3. Directions for sterilization with MetriCide® can be found on the product label.
4. **DO NOT STEAM AUTOCLAVE ELECTRO-CAPS;** the process will weaken the elastic material and significantly shorten the life of the caps.
5. Electro-Cap International assumes no responsibility for damage to its products caused by the use of products or processes not recommended in this policy.
6. MetriCide® is available from Electro-Cap International, Inc.
7. In all cases, **please refer to your facility's infection control procedures.** If questions arise, or more information is needed, please call Electro-Cap International for assistance.
8. For your convenience, MetriZyme®, an enzymatic detergent, is available from Electro-Cap International. Please contact Electro-Cap International for details.