

Keratech Astigmatic Rule - Instructions

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The Keratech Astigmatic Rule is a rack of elliptical Keratoscopic lenses corresponding to increasing magnitudes of astigmatism. The amount of corneal astigmatism (in dioptres) is determined by noting the lens that causes the reflection from the cornea to be circular.

Pre-Use Checks

1. Ensure the device is flat and has not been warped during processing
2. Ensure the device is not physically damaged or discoloured
3. Ensure the scale is clearly visible

Sterilization

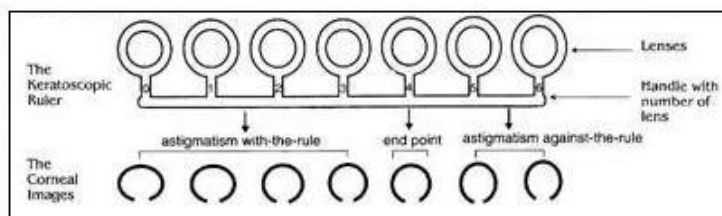
1. Wash device to remove any visible contaminants using hospital approved pH neutral detergent
2. **Place the device flat in the autoclave.** If the device is not flat the shape may become distorted.
3. Autoclave on a standard 134°C (max 137°C) cycle with a 3 minute holding time.
4. Follow the Department of Health Guidelines for management and decontamination of medical devices where appropriate.

Note:

Although the plastic is heat stable and the device can be autoclaved many times, it will eventually start to become opaque and the shape may distort. It is recommended to replace the device once this starts to happen.

Determining the end-point with the Keratoscopic Rule.

This diagram shows an example of the change in the elliptical image from astigmatism with-the-rule to the end-point (a circular image) and beyond to against the rule



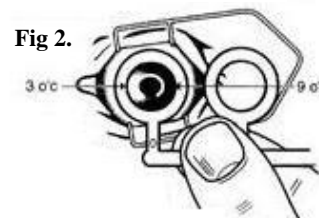
1. Preparation (figure 1).

- Close the wound water tight
- Re-inflate the anterior chamber with balanced salt solution to a normal physiological pressure
- Release the superior rectus suture
- A tight wound will give astigmatism with-the-rule



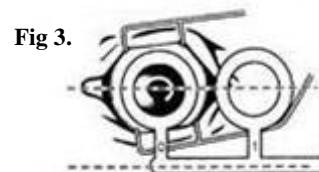
2. Set the distance (figure 2).

- Hold the instrument so that the inner edge of the circular (0) lens is just aligned with the limbus; this sets the distance the rule should be held from the eye (i.e. 20mm)
- Always keep the inner edges of the lenses aligned with the limbus at 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock to keep the distance set



3. Align the axis (figure 3).

- Again using the circular lens (0) align the handle of the instrument with the long axis of the corneal image
- Be sure not to tilt the instrument as this changes the shape of the image and gives a false reading
- With-the-rule astigmatism will have the long axis of the image at 180°, 3 o'clock to 9 o'clock



4. Observe the image shape (figure 4).

- Note the image produced by each lens in turn
- The end point is when the image becomes most circular
- Remember to keep the distance set and axis aligned correctly
- The magnitude of astigmatism in dioptres is given by the lens number

