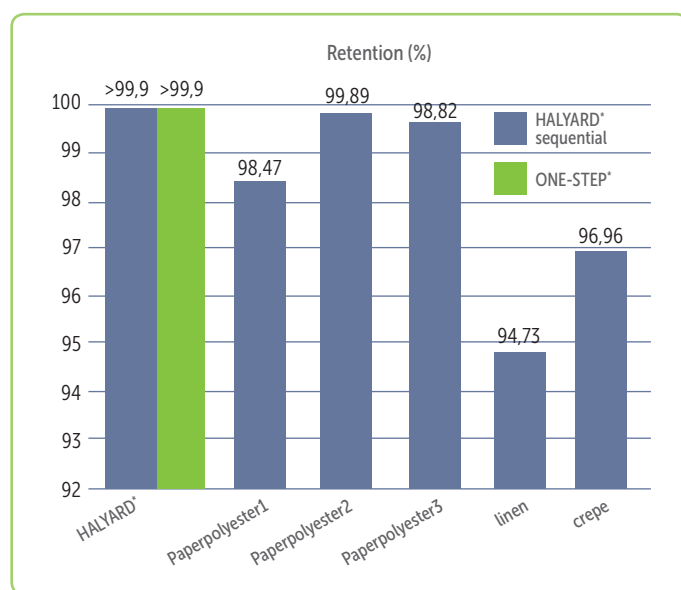


FINAL PACK METHOD^{1,2}: DRY MICROBIAL BARRIER PROPERTIES OF STERILISATION WRAP

To objectively evaluate the barrier properties of an assembled, sealed and sterilised pack, TNO (Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research) studied the barrier properties of a selection of sterilisation wrapping materials, on request of Halyard Health, formerly known as Kimberly-Clark. The barrier properties of a packaging system are determined by the combination of material barrier properties and quality of the seals. Efficient sealing is dependent on the ability of the material to fold around and adequately cover the contents of the wrapped tray without leaving any openings. The highest risk of contamination of a sterilised pack occurs in the period after removing the package from the autoclave. This cooling down process causes an under pressure within the package, resulting in suction of the surrounding air into the package. To determine the microbial barrier properties the package is challenged with an aerosol of particles of 1µm. A laser particle counter determines the amount of particles penetrating the package. The retention value has been determined at the air flow rate of 1000 ml/min.



Results: Results are expressed as % retention, with zero being no barrier and a retention greater than 99,9 being an efficient barrier. All weights of HALYARD* sterilisation wrap (both HALYARD ONE-STEP* and two layers of HALYARD* sequential double wrapped) exhibit the same excellent barrier characteristics.

References: 1. TNO report, May 1999, Determination of the microbial barrier properties of twelve types of packaging material according to the Final Pack Method. 2. TNO report, V6412 April 2005, Determination of the microbial barrier properties of thirty types of packaging material from Kimberly-Clark, according to the Final Pack Method



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