

# OPTICS HANDLING NOTE



Figure 1. Flushing the optical filter with Vertrel XF or Asahiklin AK-225.



Figure 2. Blotting the lower edge of the filter without contacting the coated surface.

## Care and Use of Open-Faced UV Filters

Open-faced UV filters should be handled by the edges only with powderless surgical gloves or finger cots. Care should be taken to not touch the coated surface.

For general removal of light dust, a clean air syringe is recommended. If dust clings to the filter surface due to static charge, a stream of filtered pre-purified dry nitrogen from an ionizing gun can be used. This method of dust removal from the filter surfaces is also recommended before closing the instrument in which the filter is installed.

To prevent surface contamination, do not talk or breathe over the filter surface during instrument final test or alignment. A surgical mask can be used if the filter has to be exposed to this condition for an extended period of time.

A light vacuuming of the entire inside optical area of the instrument is recommended prior to enclosing the filter in the device.

If the filter becomes stained or dirty, immediately flush the surface with high-purity Vertrel XF® (see note at bottom of page) or Asahiklin AK-225 (see note at bottom of page) from a clean polyethylene squeeze bottle (**Figure 1**). Starting at the top of the surface to be cleaned, squirt the cleaning liquid onto the optical surface in a back-and-forth horizontal sweeping motion. Work slowly to the bottom of the surface. Any droplets remaining at the lower edge of the device after rinsing may contain contaminants and should be gently blotted with absorbent tissue without touching the coated surface (**Figure 2**). NEVER brush or wipe the coated surface. NOTE: This cleaning step should be carried out only once and may result in a stained coated surface.

*Note: Vertrel XF is a registered trademark of Dupont, Inc., and is available from Miller-Stephenson Chemical Company, Inc., Fairfield County, CT, tel. 800-992-2424. Asahiklin AK-225 is a product of Asahi Glass Co. Ltd., and is available from Tech-Spray Corp., Amarillo, TX, tel. 806-372-8523.*