**Flooding Damage:**
- Use of flash steam sterilization - the excessively quick “heating up” and “cooling down” associated with flash sterilization puts tremendous stress on dissimilar materials that comprise rigid endoscopes – leading to breakdown of seals that protect against fluid invasion.
- Bending endoscope shaft, which can separate shaft system from body of scope, causing a pathway for fluid invasion.
- Dropping endoscope, which can cause micro-cracks in eyepiece of the scope or scope epoxy separation – creating a pathway for fluid invasion.

**Distal Tip Damage:**
- Contact with another device (such as a laser or shaver) in surgical field.
- Contact with other devices on the back table/mayo stand while scope not in direct use.
- Contact “rubbing” of distal tip against bottom of a scope warmer.
- Contact with other devices/instruments in common transport/storage container.
- Use of abrasive cleaning element during decontamination.
- Distal tip “rubbing” against metal or abrasive container surface.

**Inadequate Illumination:**
(Damage to the light-conducting fibers running between scope inner and outer shafts)
- Excessive bending of endoscope shaft that “kinks” either inner or outer shaft (or both) or traumatically separates shaft system from scope body.
- Excessive denting of shaft system as a result of contact with another device in surgical field or stacking of devices on scope during storage, decontamination, transport, etc.
- “Pitting” damage as a result of contact with device such as a laser or shaver in surgical field.
- Excessive distal tip damage that has fatally flawed either inner or outer endoscope shaft.

**Tubing Damage:**
- Dropping endoscope
- Bending of endoscope shaft that “kinks” either inner or outer shaft (or both) or traumatically separates shaft system from scope body.
- Denting of shaft system as a result of contact with another device in surgical field or stacking of devices on scope during storage, decontamination, transport, etc.
- “Pitting” damage as a result of contact with device such as a laser or shaver in surgical field.

**Optical Relay Damage:**
(Damage to rod lenses, spacers, objective lens assembly, and other optical components)
- Bending endoscope shaft, which can misalign, chip, or completely fracture rod lenses within the relay system.
- Dropping endoscope, which can also misalign, chip, or fracture rod lenses, the objective lens assembly, optical components within body, or eyepiece.
- Distal tip damage that intrudes the objective lens assembly through the distal window, thus damaging this system of components.

**Light Post/Fiber Damage:**
- Dropping endoscope
- Cross threading of light post adapter(s) onto light post.
- Excessive heat from mis-calibrated light source conducted through fiber-optic cable.
- Bending of light post due to excessive tension from fiber-optic cable.

**Eyepiece/Video Coupler Damage:**
- Dropping endoscope
- Use of flash steam sterilization.
- Not completely disengaging camera coupler from eyepiece during room turn.
- Cross-threading video arthroscopes into camera.

**Altered Components:**
- Use of a service provider that uses component parts which are not equivalent to the original manufacturer’s parts.