



The Evolving World of Medical Device Sterilization



Medical Device Sterilization Market

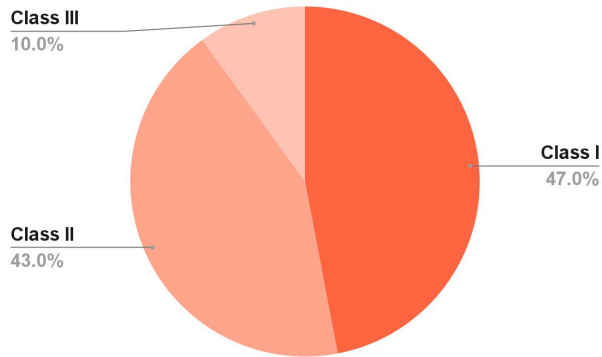
Estimated **~40 Billion** Medical Devices Sterilized annually

Global Market for Medical Device Sterilization Technologies (2023): **~\$3 Billion**

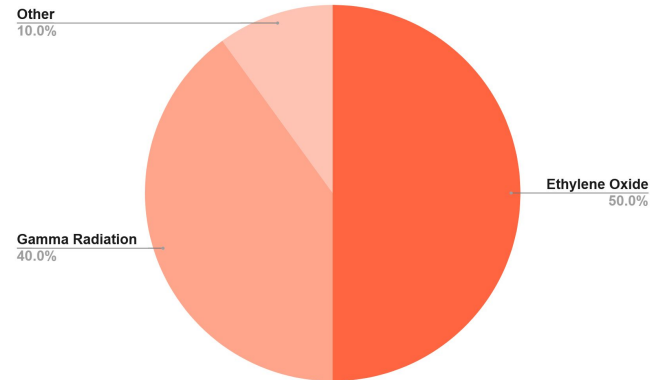
CAGR 2022-2027: **9.3%**

BCC Research
American Journal of Infection Control

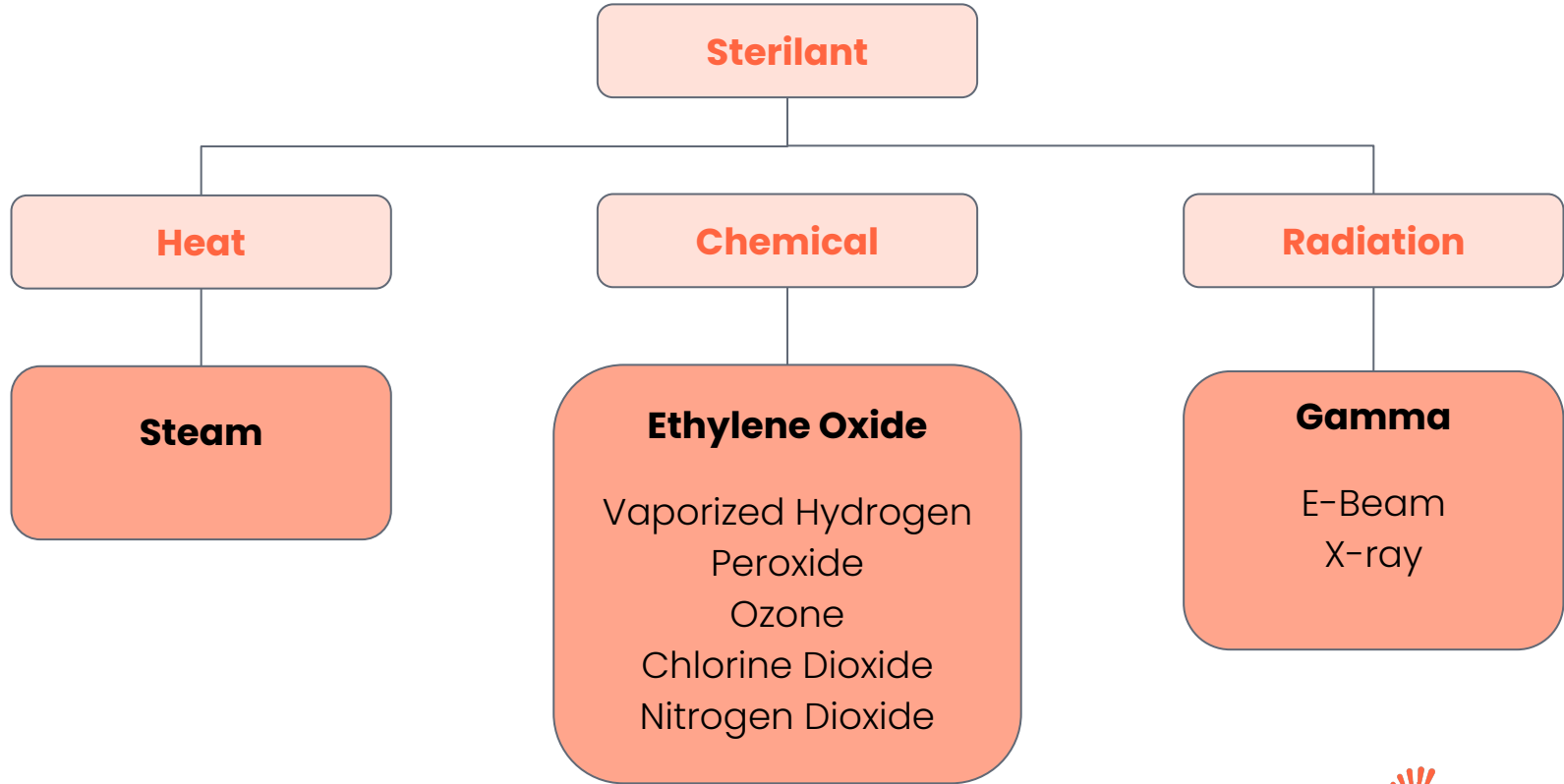
Medical Device Classifications Market



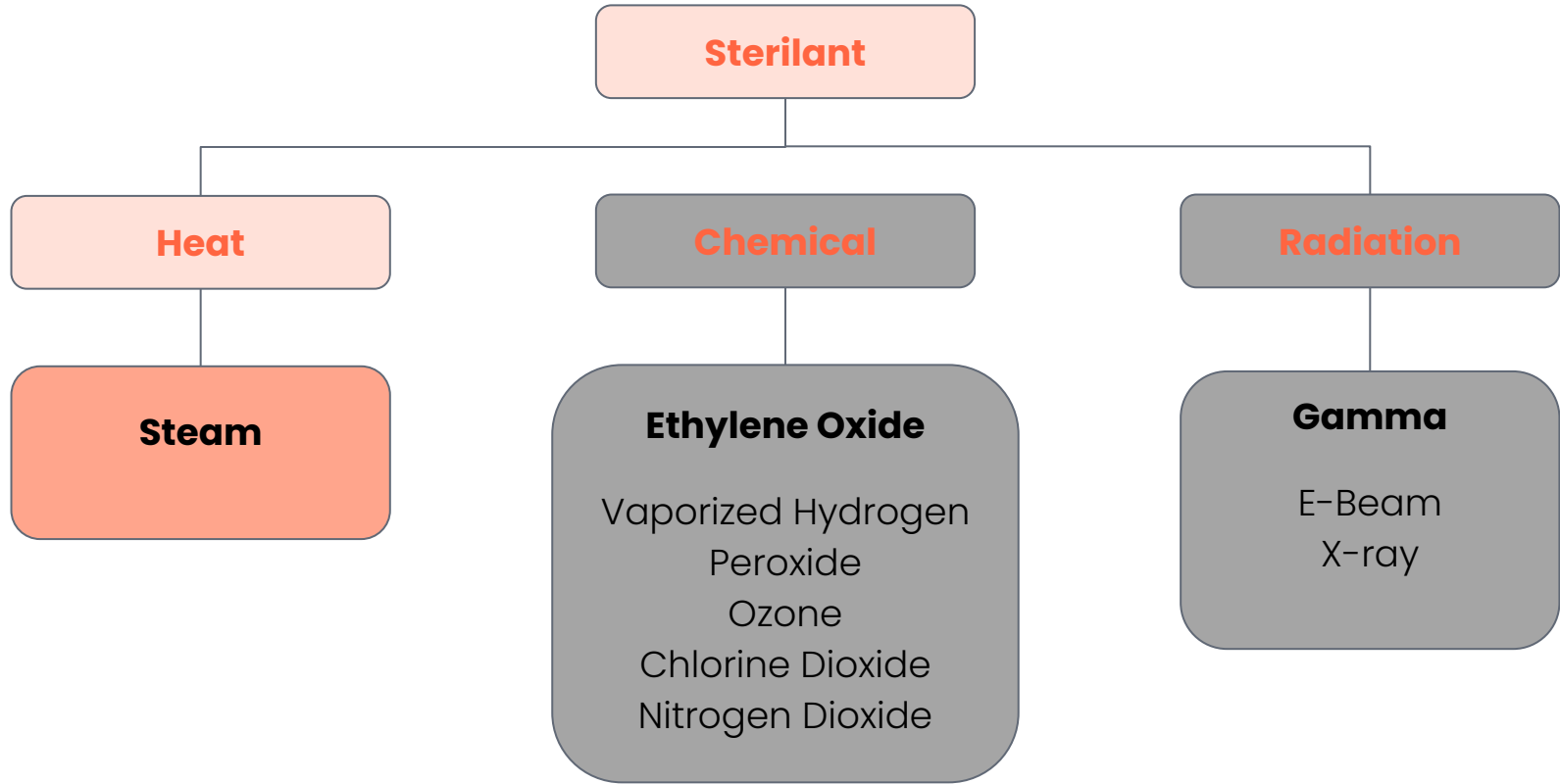
Medical Device Sterilization Market



Sterilization Methods



Sterilization Methods



Steam Sterilization

Mode: Coagulation and denaturation of proteins due to **high heat and moisture**

Typical Sterilization Conditions:

- **Temperature:** 121 C - 134 C (250 F - 273 F)
- **Humidity:** 100%
- **Pressure:** 15-30 psi
- **Time:** 15-30 min

Benefits	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Rapid turnaround❖ No hazardous chemicals❖ Cost effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Materials must be heat and moisture resistant❖ Corrosion risk❖ Energy intensive

Key Applications:

- Surgical instruments, implants, syringes, vials, flexible liquid containers

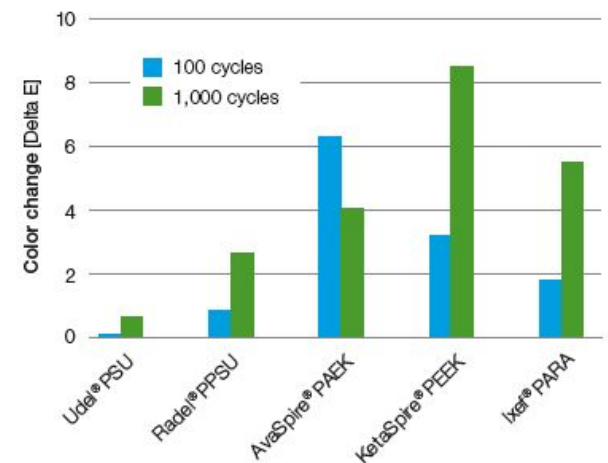
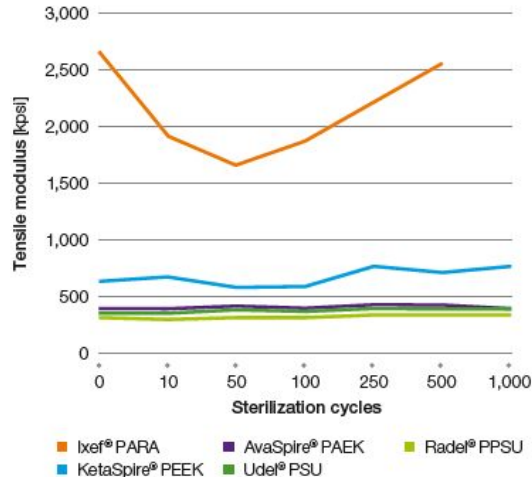
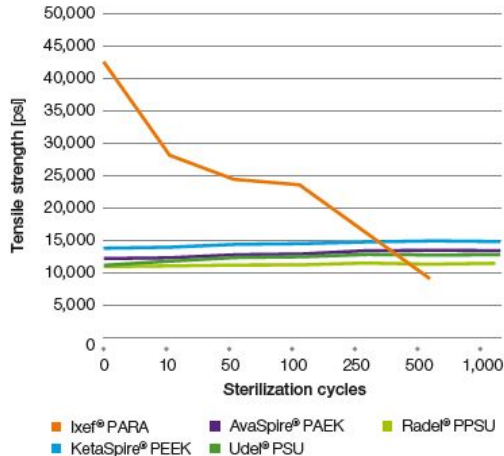
Steam Sterilization Effects on Polymeric Materials

Potential Detrimental Effects:

- Hydrolysis
- Moisture absorption
- Softening
- Oxidation

- Decrease in mechanical properties
- Loss of dimensional stability
- Decrease in chemical resistance
- Discoloration
- Surface roughening
- Loss of additives

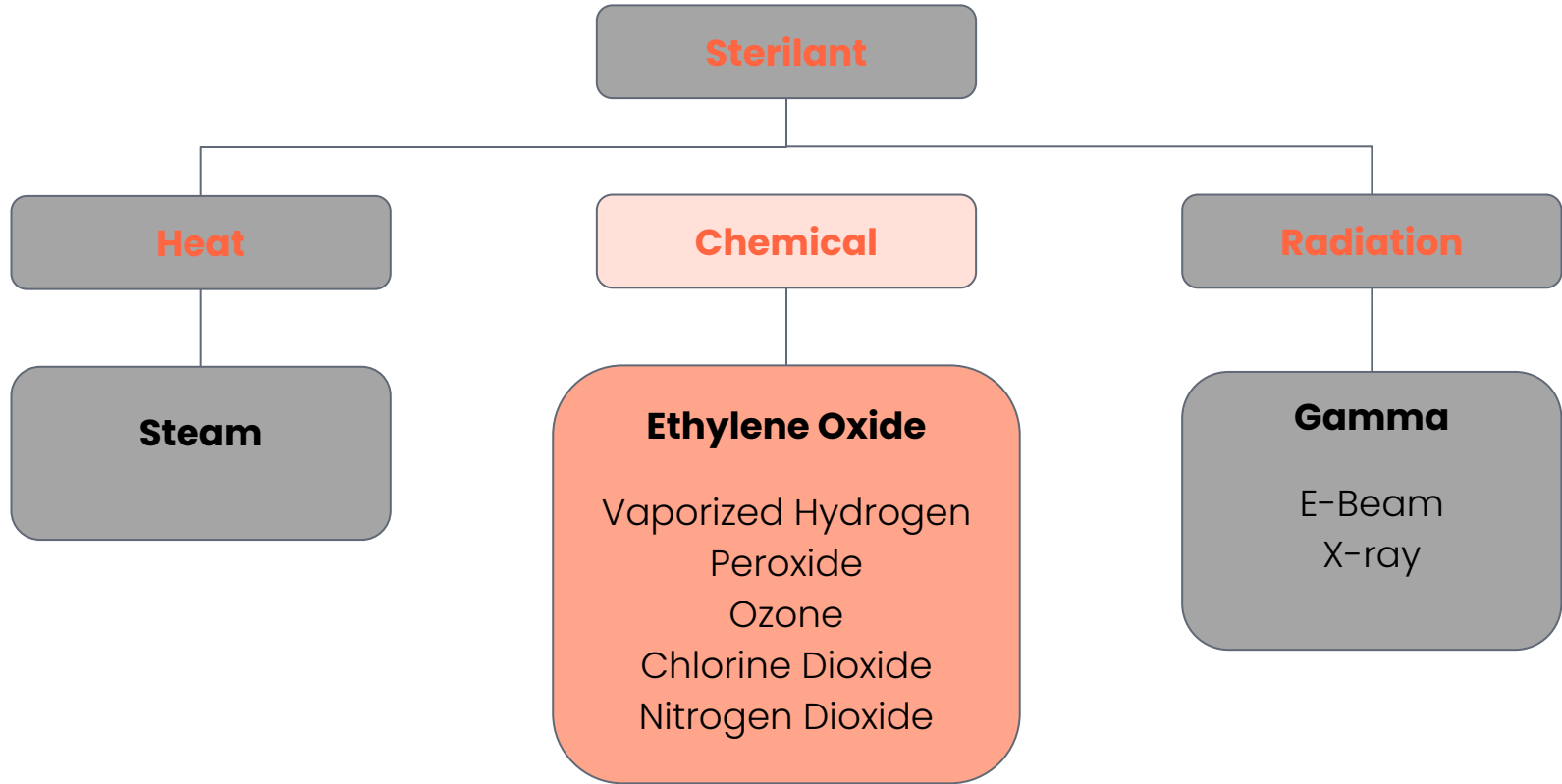
Steam Sterilization Results:



Test Conditions

- Equipment: Amsco® Century® Sterilizer SV-136H
- Cycle: Pre-vac
- Temperature: 135.5 °C (275.9 °F)
- Pressure: 31 to 33 psig
- Vacuum: 27 inHg
- Sterilization time: 18 minutes
- Drying time: 10 minutes
- Total time: 33 minutes

Sterilization Methods



Ethylene Oxide Sterilization

Mode: Alkylation of proteins, DNA, and RNA, disrupting cellular metabolism and replication

Typical Sterilization Conditions:

- **Temperature:** 30 C - 60 C (86 F - 140 F)
- **EtO Concentration:** 450 - 1200 mg/L
- **Time:** 2-6 hrs, 8-12 hrs for aeration (removal of residual gas)

Benefits	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Effective for wide range of materials, including polymers and electronics❖ High penetration of sterilant❖ Scalability - suitable for both small and large batch loads❖ Effective for breathable packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Cannot be used on sealed air tight medical devices or densely packaged devices❖ Long turnaround time❖ Stringent regulations due to toxicity of EtO❖ Transportation logistics

Key Applications:

- Heart valves, pacemakers, surgical kits, syringes, catheters, ventilators, bulk sterilization

Chemical Sterilization Methods

	Ethylene Oxide	Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide	Ozone	Chlorine Dioxide	Nitrogen Dioxide
Disinfection Ability	High Penetration - preferred for small lumens, enclosed spaces	Moderate Penetration - Limited for narrow lumens	Low Penetration - best for surface sterilization	Moderate Penetration	Moderate Penetration
Sterilization Speed	Slow	Fast	Fast	Fast	Fast
Infrastructure	Widely Available	Moderately Available	Limited	Limited	Limited
Cost	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Batch Size	Large	Small to Medium	Small to Medium	Small	Small
Regulatory Considerations	Higher Risk - toxic gas handling	Lower Risk	Higher Risk	Moderate Risk	Lower Risk

Chemical Sterilization Effects on Polymeric Materials

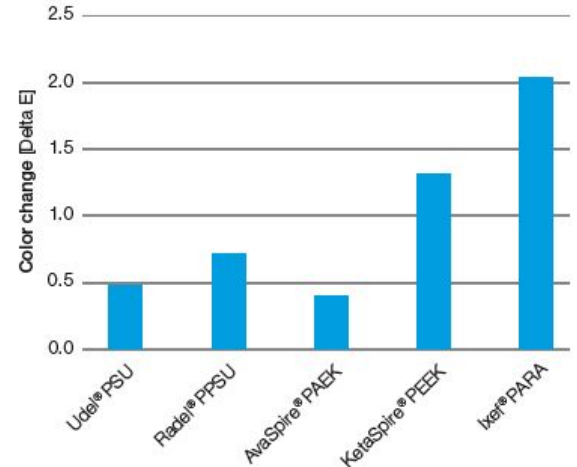
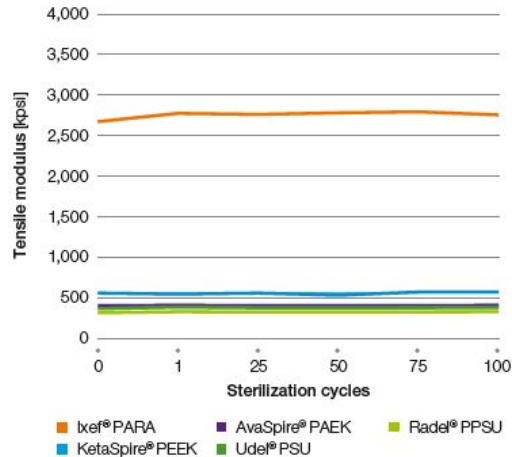
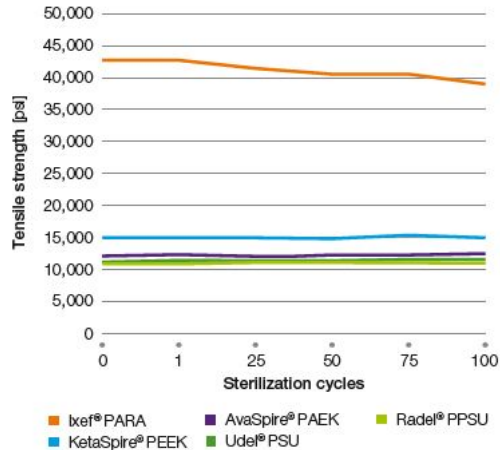
Potential Detrimental Effects:

- Cross-linking (EtO)
- Oxidation
- Additive leaching

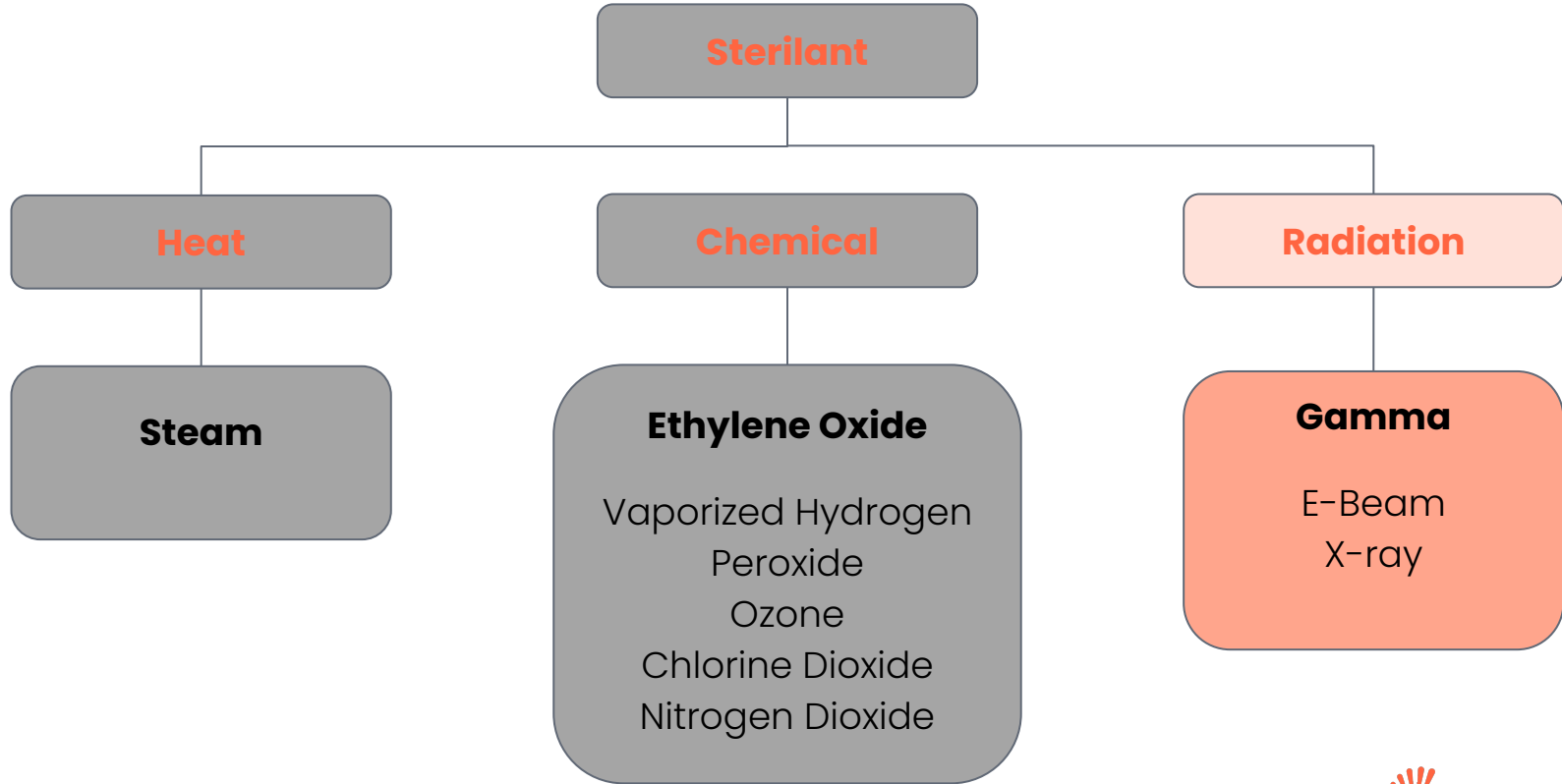


- Embrittlement
- Discoloration
- Surface roughening
- Loss of additives

EtO Sterilization Results:



Sterilization Methods



Gamma Sterilization

Mode: Ionization of cellular molecules, causing breaks in DNA and oxidative damage to cellular components

Typical Sterilization Conditions:

- **Dose:** 25-50 kGy
- **Time:** sec - hrs

Benefits	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● High penetration of sterilant● Effective on heat-sensitive and moisture-sensitive products● No need for post-sterilization aeration● Effective on sealed packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● High capital investment for facilities and reliance on specialized centers● Degradation in certain materials● Transportation logistics● Stringent regulations around radiation safety from Cobalt-60

Key Applications:

- Single-use devices, complex geometries, syringes, needles, scalpels, adhesive dressings

Radiation Sterilization Methods

	Gamma	E-beam	X-ray
Disinfection Ability	High Penetration - best for dense, large, bulk packaged products	Moderate Penetration - best for thin, flat, small products	High Penetration - best for dense, large, bulk packaged products
Sterilization Speed	Slow	Fast	Moderate
Infrastructure	Widespread but limited	Widely Available	Moderate and Growing
Cost	High	Low	Moderate
Batch Size	Large	Small - Moderate	Moderate - Large
Regulatory Considerations	Higher Risk - radioactive material sourcing and handling	Lower Risk	Lower Risk

Radiation Sterilization Effects on Polymeric Materials

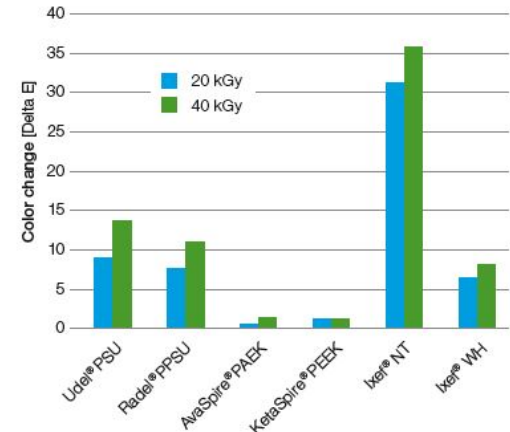
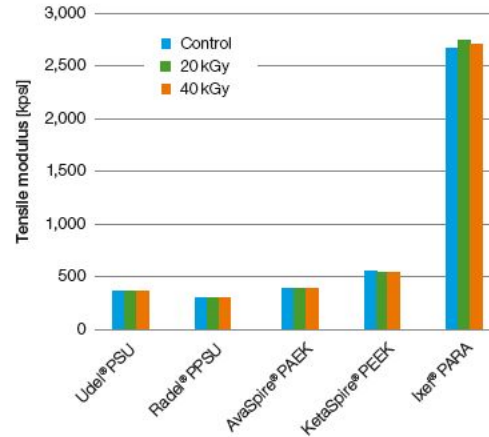
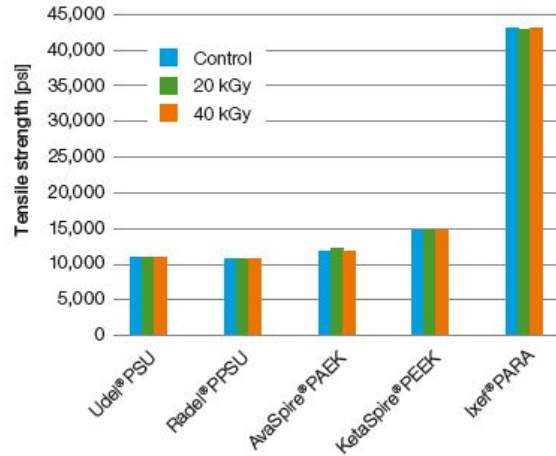
Potential Detrimental Effects:

- Chain scission
- Cross-linking
- Oxidation



- Loss in tensile strength
- Embrittlement
- Discoloration
- Loss of dimensional stability
- Surface roughening
- Loss of additives

Gamma Sterilization Results:



Conclusion: The Future of Medical Device Sterilization

- **Growing Demand** – With ~40 billion medical devices sterilized annually, the sterilization market is expanding to meet the demand
- **Diverse Sterilization Methods** – Driven by evolving regulations, environmental concerns, and the need for material compatibility, new sterilization technologies continue to emerge
- **Material Considerations** – Polymeric medical devices can be affected by sterilization processes, requiring careful material selection and testing to maintain performance and longevity

Thank You