



RISK PREVENTION PROTOCOL REGARDING THE USE OF NEEDLES AND OTHER SHARP OBJECTS

MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND NURSING STUDENTS



What is the most common way of suffering a needle-stick injury?

- Recapping needles.
- Transferring body fluids into different containers.
- Incorrectly disposing the used needles into the proper safety containers (sharps disposal containers).

What risk are you exposed to if pricking with a needle used on an infected patient?

Needle pricking can put you at risk of many blood borne pathogens that may cause serious infections. The most important health risks are:

- ✓ Hepatitis B virus.
- ✓ Hepatitis C virus.
- ✓ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

ALL PATIENTS MUST BE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS and therefore, certain work procedures in the use of syringes must be carried out.

GENERAL RULES

- Before the practice:
 - Professors must inform the students of the risks derived from the use of syringes, as well as the appropriate preventive measures.
 - It is recommended to get the Hepatitis B vaccine before the practice... IT IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE!!!
 - Wash your hands.
 - Cover any skin injuries, cuts and wounds.
- During the practice:
 - Work with caution.
 - Protect yourself by using gloves in order to prevent skin injuries.
 - Sharp objects must be disposed of properly in biosafety rigid containers.



- Under no circumstances should needles be recapped after their use.
- After the practice:
 1. Immerse the material in disinfectant for about 15 minutes.
 2. Wash the material using water, soap and a long handle brush.
 3. Allow the material to dry.
 4. Store material for sterilisation.
 5. Remove your gloves.
 6. Wash your hands.
- In the event of an accident:
 - Immediately report the accident to the professor, who will inform of the procedures to follow:
 1. Wound treatment.
 - Remove the causative object and dispose of it in a suitable place (container of sharp materials).
 - Let the blood flow for 2-3 minutes under a stream of running water. - Do not scrub, not force the bleeding or perform aggressive maneuvers that can cause erosions that favor infection.
 - Clean the wound with soap and water.
 - Apply an antiseptic (povidone iodine or other antiseptic).
 - Cover the wound with a waterproof dressing.
 2. Perform a blood test.
 3. Complete the corresponding documentation to carry out the processing of school insurance.
 - Report the accident to Servei de Prevenció i Medi Ambient (www.uv.es/spma)