

Scalpel Injuries- understanding the risks in your workplace

Podiatrists use scalpels every day during patient care, and run the risk of a scalpel injury without the correct equipment and work practices.

SCALPEL INJURIES CAN CAUSE



- Blood-borne infection such as HBV, HCV, or HIV
- Severed digital nerve and/or tendon
- Psychological distress and/or trauma
- Delayed procedures and loss of productivity

\$556 - \$3,000

Cost for an uncomplicated scalpel injury.



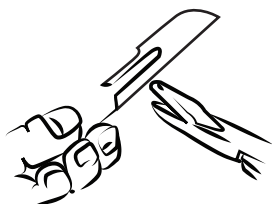
\$15k - \$100k

Cost if injury requires surgery and rehabilitation.

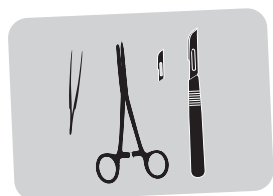
In addition to the post-exposure management costs, there may be hidden costs such as workers compensation, retraining, or non-compliance penalties.

Half of all scalpel injuries go unreported

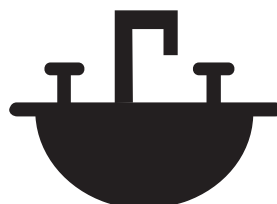
Where do scalpel injuries occur?



When removing scalpel blades



While switching instruments



During clean-up / re-sterilisation

Up to

50%

of scalpel injuries can be prevented using a single-handed scalpel blade remover

To find out more about preventing scalpel injuries, visit www.qlicksmart.com

Sources: Sharps Injuries in the Operating Theatre - A Practical Guide to Further Reducing the Risks: Purple Surgical 2015. | Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Overview of sharps injuries among hospital workers in Massachusetts. Massachusetts sharps injury surveillance system, 2017 | Jagger J, Hunt EH, Pearson RD. Estimated cost of needlestick injuries for six major needed devices. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 1990;11(11):S84-8. | NHS. Did you know? Preventing needlestick injuries: NHS Revolution, 2017. | Fuentes H, Collier J, Sinnott M, et al. "Scalpel safety": Modeling the effectiveness of different safety devices' ability to reduce scalpel blade injuries. International Journal of Risk & Safety in Medicine 2008;20(1-2) | Kanamori H, et al: Impact of Safety-Engineered Devices on the Incidence of Occupational Blood and Body Fluid Exposures Among Healthcare Personnel in an Academic Facility, 2000-2014. Infection Control Hospital Epidemiology 2016. 37(5):497-504. | [https://pricinghealthcare.com/healthServices/UI-nar%20Nerve%20Transposition%20\(elbow\)/172W](https://pricinghealthcare.com/healthServices/UI-nar%20Nerve%20Transposition%20(elbow)/172W) | Trim, J.C., Elliott, T.S.J., "A review of sharps injuries and preventative strategies", Journal of Hospital Infection, No 53, 2003, pp. 237-242.

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