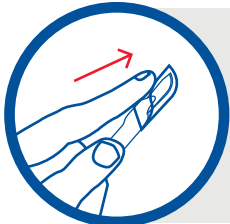


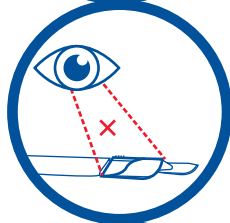
“Safety” Scalpels

Not As Safe As You Think



Inconsistent Activation Rates

The manual safety mechanism can mean that a safety scalpel's safety feature isn't engaged. ^[1] ^[2]



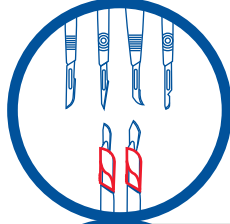
Obstructed View

The sheath on safety scalpels can make it difficult for the user to see what they are doing.



Lack of Correct Balance and Feel

The plastic handles of safety scalpels can reduce balance and tactile feedback that the user can feel.



Limited Range of Choice

The number of standard scalpel combinations is approx 236 compared to 16 safety scalpel combinations.



No Evidence of Superior Safety

There is no supportive proof that safety scalpels are in fact safe. ^[3] ^[4]

[1] DeGiralomo KM, Courtemanche DJ, Hill WD, et al. Use of safety scalpels and other safety practices to reduce sharps injury in the operating room. What is the evidence? *Canadian Journal of Surgery* 2013;56(4):263-69. doi: 10.1503/cjs.003812

[2] Watt AM, Patkin M, Sennott MJ, et al. Scalpel safety in the operative setting: a systematic review. *Surgery* 2010;147(1):98-106.

[3] Alvarado-Ramy F, Boltrami EM, Short LJ, et al. A comprehensive approach to percutaneous injury prevention during phlebotomy: results of a multicenter study, 1993-1995. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol* 2003;24(2):97-104.

[4] Black L. Chinks in the armor: Percutaneous injuries from hollow bore safety-engineered sharps devices. *American Journal of Infection Control* 2013;41(5):427-32. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2012.05.025

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