

Don't Take Your Work Home With You...

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HIV, HEPATITIS C AND OTHER BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Protecting yourself from bloodborne pathogens is a matter of habit. By developing effective sharps protection habits you can minimize your risk of contracting diseases such as Hepatitis C or HIV during percutaneous procedures. Utilize the eight step safety method with engineered sharps protection devices on each and every patient you see.

Eight Steps to Safety in the Cardiology and Radiology Lab

1
STEP

Gowns, Gloves and Eye Protection

The obvious first steps involve proper interventional lab attire. Protective clothing, including often-omitted eye protection¹, is your first line of defense against infectious disease transmission.

2
STEP

Intravenous Line

Virtually every patient you see will require an IV line. For IV insertion, always use a safety IV catheter.² However, safety doesn't stop there. After the IV line has been placed, always access that line using a needleless connector.³ In the past, needle access of IV lines has been one of the most statistically dangerous procedures.

3
STEP

Lidocaine

Puncture sites require subcutaneous injections of lidocaine solution. Always use a safety sub-Q needle⁴ if it is available. If a safety needle is not available insert the needle-tip into a temporary sharps safety or foam-safe box.⁵

4
STEP

Safety Seldinger (Guidewire Introducer) Needle

Introducer needles for use in Seldinger and modified Seldinger procedures, including over-the-wire PICC placement, has long been an overlooked area for sharps protection. Engineered sharps protection technology has finally been applied to these needles.⁶



5 STEP

Safety Scalpel

Immediately before or after the insertion of the introducer needle, the physician should use a safety scalpel⁷ to create the skin nick. The scalpel blade should be covered when not actually creating an incision.

6 STEP

Guidewire Use and Safe Handling

While the distal end of a guidewire is normally floppy and atraumatic, the proximal end can often act as a blunt sharp that can perforate biohazard or disposal bags potential injure. A guide wire handling basin, shaped like a large Lifesaver, can be used to hydrate and hold the guidewire in the sterile field during the procedure, but can also be used to contain the guidewire upon disposal.⁸

7 STEP

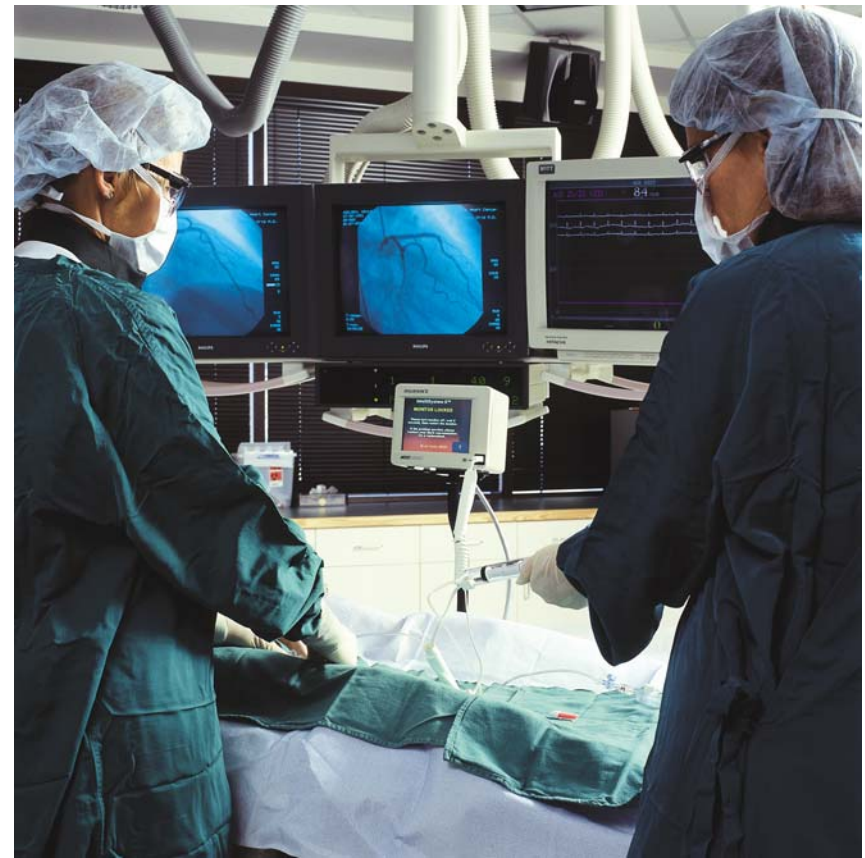
Splashless Basins

Several commercially available basins⁹ are designed to limit inadvertent spills or splashing of contaminated fluids. In addition, closed waste management systems are also available that prevent unnecessary blood exposure.

8 STEP

Sharps Disposal

The use and regular replacement of full sharps containers should be the final step in disposing of potentially dangerous biohazardous, sharp devices.



1. SplashGard-SafeGard Medical, Face Mask With Splash ShieldZ™-DeRoyal, FACE-IT full face shields-Onyz Medical.
2. Introcan® Safety™ IV catheter - B. Braun Medical, Unolok-Plus Safety Infusion Sets -Myco Medical Supplies, Inc, BD Insyte™ Autoguard™ - Beckton Dickenson, IV Safe™-M. C. Johnson Co., Inc., Protectiv Acuvance I.V. Safety Catheter - Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc./Johnson & Johnson Medical, Inc.
3. SmartSite Needle-Free System-Alaris Medical Systems, Safsite System, Ultrasite System -B. Braun Medical, PosiFlow-BD, Clave™ connector - ICU Medical, AVI Checkvalve-3M Health Care.
4. Monoject™ Safety Syringe - Kendall Healthcare Products Co., SurGuard™ Safety Needle-Terumo Medical Corp., B-D Safety Glide™ Shielding Hypodermic Needle, B-D Safety Lok Syringe™, BD SafetyBlide™ Syringe-Becton Dickinson, Vanishpoint - Retractable Technologies, Inc., Introsyte Autoguard, Needle-Pro Gettig™ Guard Safety Needle-Guardian Medical Products, Inc.
5. ShortStop™ Temporary Needle holder - Merit Medical Systems, SharpsAway II™ locking disposal cup - Arrow International.
6. Medamicus Axia RSN™ safety seldinger needle.
7. DeRoyal Safety Scalpel with retractable blade, Bard-Parker SafetyLock™ - Disposable Scalpel-Becton Dickinson, Futura Safety Scalpel, Personna Safety Scalpel.
8. Ringmaster™ Guide Wire Basin-Merit Medical Systems, Inc.
9. Splashstop™ - DeRoyal, BackStop™ disposal basin-Merit Medical Systems, Inc.

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