

# Platypus<sup>®</sup> Needle Guard for AV Fistula Needles

## Key Findings for Apheresis Trials

### Trial Background

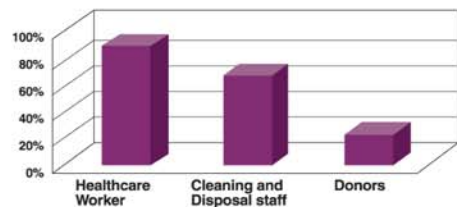
“Sharps” injury in the Australian Healthcare Industry is alarmingly high worldwide.

Clinical trials of the Platypus<sup>®</sup> were conducted in the **Apheresis unit of the Victorian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Services (BTS)** for one week in March 1997. Similar trials with extremely positive results have been conducted in Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, and in Europe.

### AV Fistula Needle Protector

The Platypus<sup>®</sup> offers extra safety. 89% of the respondents stated that the Platypus<sup>®</sup> would further enhance their safety, and 67% agreed it would further enhance the safety of cleaning staff and waste disposal staff. At the same time 22% felt that donors safety would be enhanced.

**Platypus<sup>®</sup> Provides Additional Protection for:**



Other results indicate that the Platypus<sup>®</sup>:

- **Provides a safer disposal system (71%)**
- **Prevents potential of needlestick injury on withdrawal (69%)**

### Pre-Assembled on Needle Sets

The trial clearly shows a preference to have the Platypus<sup>®</sup> pre-assembled on the manufacturer's AV Fistula needle sets:

88% of respondents stated that manufacturers of the Platypus<sup>®</sup> should incorporate it as a standard feature on their products.

### Incidence of Needlestick Injury

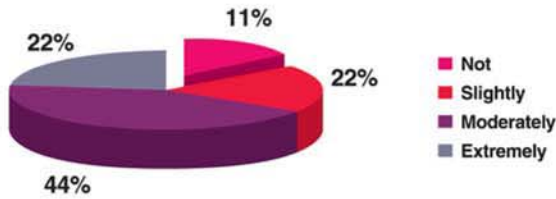
The Platypus<sup>®</sup> trial confirmed the view of previous surveys that the incidence of needlestick injury is high. 33% of the respondents have received one or more needlestick injuries in the last 3 years.

It is also surprising to find that none of the healthcare workers know the incidence of donors infected by blood borne diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis, etc.

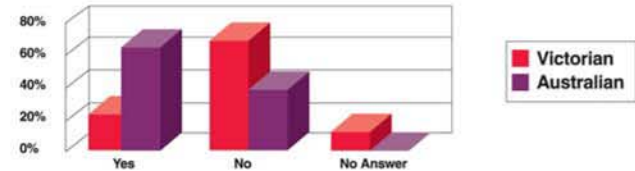
### Needlestick injury in the last three years



### Level of concern with working with infected doctors



### Anxious of possibility of being infected



It is not surprising that 89% of those who answered are concerned about the possibility of being infected as a result of a needlestick injury.

Apart from the level of concern, further safety is needed as 33% felt that current procedures for protecting against needlestick injury are not adequate.

## The Product and Performance

The trial has shown many positive results for the Platypus<sup>®</sup> and the safety it offers. The responses indicate the Platypus<sup>®</sup>:

- Does not cause problems with blood flow (89%)
- Shields the needle immediately when it is withdrawn (72%)
- Does not cause problems for apheresis (67%)

In addition to the above results:

- 75% stated that the Platypus<sup>®</sup> does not prevent adjustment to increase blood flow
- 61% stated that the Platypus<sup>®</sup> meets the requirements of intended use
- 61% stated that the Platypus<sup>®</sup> was easy to assemble
- 81% stated that the Platypus<sup>®</sup> was easy to dispose

## Comfort

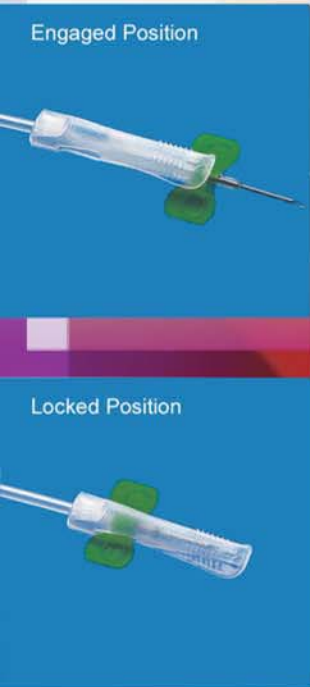
In addition to ease of use, comfort for both healthcare workers and donors is also considered an important factor of the Platypus<sup>®</sup>. Results indicate the Platypus<sup>®</sup> design meets the requirements for comfort:

- Is physically comfortable in the operators hand (61%)
- Does not cause discomfort for donor (67%)
- Sits comfortably on donor's arm (61%)
- Does not bump the needle hub (81%)

## Conclusion

The trial shows the Platypus<sup>®</sup>:

- will enhance safety and protection
- is effective in shielding the needle immediately after collection and during disposal
- should be pre-assembled as a standard feature on needle sets



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