

Platypus[®] Needle Guard for AV Fistula Needles

Key Findings for Haemodialysis Trials

Trial Background

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

Clinical trials of the AV Fistula Needle Guard were conducted in 5 Australian Dialysis Units. The 5 participating dialysis units were:

- Moorabbin Dialysis Unit - Moorabbin Vic
- Monash Medical Centre - Clayton Vic
- Caulfield Dialysis Unit - Caulfield Vic
- North East Kidney Service - Preston Vic
- Canberra Community Dialysis Centre - Canberra ACT

The sample population was 25 Nursing staff and the number of Platypus[®] Needle Guards used was 500. In the trials, 15, 16 and 17 gauge AV Fistula needles were used. The trials were conducted over 2 weeks during the last week of September and the first week of October 1998.

Needle Stick Injury

No needle stick injuries occurred while using the Platypus[®] Needle Guard when withdrawing and shielding the AV Fistula needles after dialysis

Patient Comfort

For more than 95% of cases where the needle was withdrawn into the Platypus[®] Needle Guard, there was no reported discomfort caused to the patient

Engaged Position



Locked position



Performance of the Platypus[®]

- 100% of respondents stated the needle locked into the Platypus[®] Needle Guard immediately on withdrawal
- 100% of respondents stated the locked needle did not come out of the Platypus[®] Needle Guard
- 500 Platypus[®] Needle Guard tested, all needles remained locked within the guard
- Over 94% of the respondents did not find it difficult to lock the AV Fistula Needle in the Platypus[®] Needle Guard and dispose of the whole assembly
- The respondents stated that in more than 75% of cases, the Platypus[®] Needle Guard reduces the potential exposure to blood from the needle tip



Conclusion

The trials showed that using the Platypus[®] Needle Guard

- There was easy detection of needle shielding and locking
- Reduced potential exposure to blood from the needle tip
- Was easy to shield, lock and dispose of AV Fistula needles after withdrawal
- Was comfortable for patients
- No needle stick injuries occurred

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