

# Platypus<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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For more than 95% of cases where the needle was withdrawn into the Platypus<sup>®</sup> Needle Guard, there was no reported discomfort caused to the patient

Engaged Position



Locked position



# Performance of the Platypus<sup>®</sup>

- 100% of respondents stated the needle locked into the Platypus<sup>®</sup> Needle Guard immediately on withdrawal
- 100% of respondents stated the locked needle did not come out of the Platypus<sup>®</sup> Needle Guard
- 500 Platypus<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> Needle Guard and dispose of the whole assembly
- The respondents stated that in more than 75% of cases, the Platypus<sup>®</sup> Needle Guard reduces the potential exposure to blood from the needle tip



## Conclusion

The trials showed that using the Platypus<sup>®</sup> 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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