

SAFhandle™

# REUSABLE SAFETY SCALPELS

Preventing the  
Unpreventable®



## Hassle-free conversion

Matches the feel of conventional scalpels.



**PROBLEM** Healthcare facilities report futility in converting to safety scalpels. It's a well known fact that surgeons prefer to use reusable scalpel handles.

**SOLUTION** The SAFhandle™ reusable safety scalpel has the exact shape, dimensions, weight, grip and balance of a conventional scalpel, making the conversion to a safety scalpel hassle-free. Available in sizes 3, 4, 3L and 4L.

*Surgical practitioners must base their evaluation and selection of scalpels and other medical sharps on the impact a device will have on achieving the necessary balance between employee safety and the delivery of optimal healthcare to patients.<sup>1</sup>*

## No touch blade removal

Complying with OSHA and CDC requirements.

**PROBLEM** Conventional reusable scalpel handles are unsafe because removal of blades is a difficult, hence risky procedure. Blades may sometimes break. Blade remover devices are expensive.

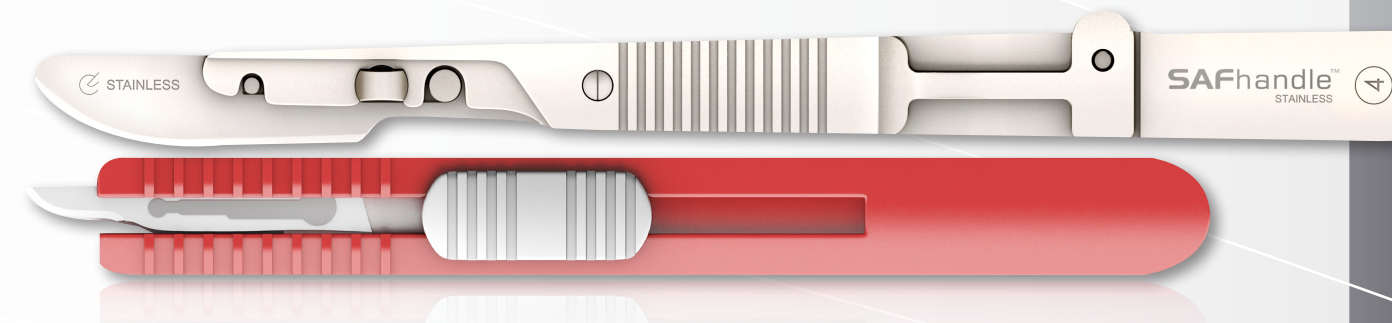
**SOLUTION** The SAFhandle™ reusable safety scalpel allows "no touch" removal of blade, in compliance with OSHA and CDC requirements. It dispenses with the need for blade remover devices. The SAFhandle™ reusable safety scalpel requires very little training to use. The handle prevents the possibility of the blade breaking during procedure or disassembly.

*Neutral zones or passing trays provide necessary safety against failure to activate safety scalpel mechanisms.<sup>2</sup> The SAFhandle™ reusable safety scalpel, used in conjunction with work practice controls such as hands free transfer trays or neutral zones, offers the optimum balance between employee safety and the delivery of optimal healthcare to patients.*



## Which is safer?

No shields, buttons, springs, clicks. No surprises.



**PROBLEM** Safety features of safety scalpels are frequently not activated and blade tips are left exposed, leading to injury during hand to hand passing or after use.<sup>3</sup> Shields of safety scalpels are awkward and obstruct use. These features encourage the unsafe practice of hand to hand passing.

**SOLUTION** The SAFhandle™ reusable safety scalpel blades are a passive safety device with no safety feature to activate. CDC recommends "Do not hand-pass exposed sharps from one person to the other; use a predetermined neutral zone or tray for placing and retrieving used sharps."

*Passive SEDs are most effective for NSI prevention reports an EPINET 2010 study.<sup>4</sup>*

## Which is safer?

CDC, AORN, EPINet recommend round-tip scalpel blades.

**PROBLEM** Regardless of when scalpel injuries take place- they occur due to a sharp tip scalpel blade. Safety scalpels, currently available on the market, cannot prevent injuries during use or when exposed because these scalpels are loaded with a sharp tipped blade. In one study nearly 50% of the scalpel injuries occurred during use.<sup>5</sup> Scalpel blades are more likely than needles to cause deep or otherwise severe injuries due to their sharp tips.

**SOLUTION** Round tip scalpel blades are recommended as a solution for reducing percutaneous injuries by the the CDC, AORN and EPINET of the University of Virginia's International Healthcare Worker Safety Center.

*The SAFhandle™ reusable safety scalpel blades have a round tip to prevent needlestick injuries when the scalpel is in use or exposed.*



<sup>1</sup> US OSHA Standard Interpretations: 473. 2005 - 12/22/2005 - Use of passing trays and single-handed scalpel blade remover in a surgical setting.

<sup>2</sup> AORN Journal, December 2009, Reducing Scalpel Injuries in the Operating Room- Joshua G. Vose, MD; Jeanne Mcadara-Berkowitz, PHD.

<sup>3</sup> AORN Journal, December 2009, Reducing Scalpel Injuries in the Operating Room- Joshua G. Vose, MD; Jeanne Mcadara-Berkowitz, PHD.

<sup>4</sup> International Healthcare Worker Safety Center, Univ. of Virginia. Efficacy of Safety-Engineered Sharp Medical Devices Studies from 2001-2010.

<sup>5</sup> International Journal of Surgery 2006. Fuentes H, Collier J, Sinnott M, Whitby M. 'Scalpel safety': modelling the effectiveness of different safety devices' ability to reduce scalpel blade injuries.

## Protection during use with enhanced performance

The features of the scalpel meet the needs of patients, surgeons, nursing staff and risk and materials management.



### For the patients

1. The SAFhandle™ reusable safety scalpel provides the feel crucial to properly execute surgical procedures.
2. Allows surgeons and staff to focus on the patient rather than the tools.
3. Reduced risk of retained blades. Handle design prevents the blade breaking or disassembling during procedure.
4. Reduced risk for blood borne pathogen exposure (from accidental sharps injuries of surgical staff attending the patient during surgery).
5. Safe for deep tissue incisions.

### For the surgeon

1. The SAFhandle™ reusable safety scalpel weigh and feel like conventional handles. No change in technique.
2. SAFhandle™ scalpel exceeds the cutting performance of conventional scalpels. The handle strengthens the blade and enhances cutting action.
3. Clinical case report reveals dental surgeon's preference in using the SAFhandle™ No. 15 blade for sulcular incision preceding flap reflection during dental surgical procedures.
4. Suitable and safe for Arthroscopy.
5. Complete range of high performance blades.

### For the nursing staff

1. The SAFhandle™ safety blade with round tip protects against percutaneous needlestick injuries.
2. Innovative fit and lock system is safe and easy to load the blade. Protects against sudden movements and collisions.
3. No change in aseptic technique.
4. No touch technique for removal of blade.
5. Blade remover units not required.
6. Requires very little training.

### For the risk and materials manager

1. No increase in volume of sharps waste and in inventory space.
2. No change in sharps disposal containers, counting trays, methods and equipment for cleaning handles and handling methods.
3. Durable German stainless steel handle with extended life.
4. Provides an easy and cost effective way to comply with OSHA standards and federal regulations.
5. Compatible with most makes of conventional scalpel blades.
6. A complete range of blades and handles available.