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Ebook SERIES

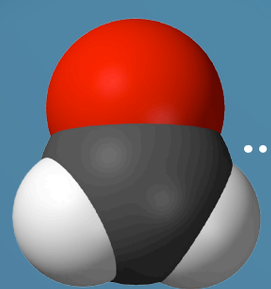
SAFE BIOPSIES

PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR PATIENTS

A CULTURE OF SAFETY

Safe biopsy collection is critical to protecting health care workers, laboratory personnel, patients, and the medical facility. Safety errors related to specimen collection and transport may lead to inaccurate diagnoses for the patient and liability issues for the facility. In addition, handling errors elevate the risk of personnel exposure to infectious or hazardous materials. For example, practitioners may be exposed to formaldehyde, the gas emanated by the formalin solution necessary for biopsy fixation. This is a risk that nurses, laboratory technicians, and doctors are exposed to every day.

According to the CDC, zero risk is practically unattainable, as long as patient specimens are handled. However, with the right systems in place, the risks can be lowered as close as possible to zero. Secure specimen management to protect all the stakeholders requires disciplined team communication, focused workflows, and attention to procedure.



In particular, a well-designed system to handle and transport specimens can prevent the exposure of health care personnel to chemicals, blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials. Handling problems often include:

- loose caps
- leaking containers
- contamination of outside of containers
- contaminated paperwork
- incomplete or incorrect labeling

All of which are preventable.

OSHA: Formaldehyde Hazard Recognition

Formaldehyde is classified as a human carcinogen. Short-term exposure to formaldehyde can be fatal. Long-term exposure to low levels of formaldehyde may cause respiratory difficulty, eczema, and sensitization.

Learn more:

- References on formaldehyde hazards in the workplace VIEW LINK
- National Library of Medicine's Toxicity Data Network summarizing human health effects VIEW LINK

SAFETY FOR THE TEAM

In addition to maintaining the integrity of the specimen and its documentation, the team must ensure personal safety in an often challenging, changing. or even understaffed environment. Having the proper risk reduction systems in place beforehand, using them consistently, and monitoring problems is the foundation for an effective safety program:

- Required PPE
- Sterile working environment and instruments
- Proper container systems and fixatives
- Standardized and simplified workflows
- Digital information access
- Preprinted forms and charts
- Chain of custody and transport protocols
- Continual training and compliance reviews
- A culture of safety and team communication

EASY, FAST, AND SAFE:
All in a Closed System



With BiopSafe, everything is done inside the container – no formalin is released in either liquid or vapor form

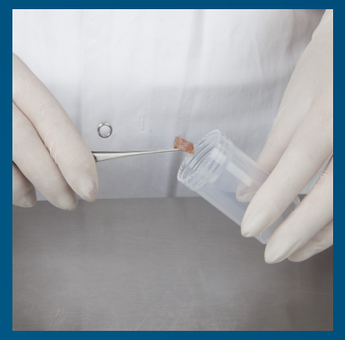
THE NEW ROAD TO SAFE BIOPSY HANDLING

The BiopSafe system consists of a small, easy to use container (vial) with formalin capsuled in the lid, designed for immersion fixation.

- When the biopsy is placed at the bottom of the container, you screw the lid on and gently apply pressure with your thumb, allowing the formalin to flow out and cover the biopsy.
- Everything is done inside the container and no formalin is released in either liquid or vapor form.
- Besides being safe, the method is also fast.
- BiopSafe is always at hand and the process of placing the biopsy, adding the formalin, and making it ready for transportation to the laboratory is done in a matter of seconds.
- BiopSafe saves valuable time and at the same time ensures that concentration is not broken unnecessarily during operations.
- With BiopSafe there are no difficult formalin bags and wall holders that often leads to formalin waste.



The lid is screwed off.



The biopsy is placed in the vial.



The lid is screwed on.



The formalin is released with a press of the thumb.



The formalin and the biopsy is mixed.



The biopsy is ready for transportation.



Press for Better Safety and Learn More

When handling formalin, it is critical to secure a safe working environment. With BiopSafe, the handling is done in a hermetically sealed system providing the best protection. The team is never exposed to formalin in liquid or vapor form, not even during the process of screwing the lid on and off.

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KEEPING PATIENTS SAFE

As a complex procedure with many steps, patient biopsies include many opportunities for serious errors. From the beginning, biological tissue is fragile. Fixation to prevent samples from undergoing autolysis needs to proceed without delay. It is critical to confirm the specifics on how to handle a specimen and to have the correct equipment and materials available, along with instructions for use.

In addition, specimen documentation is also susceptible to a number of errors. According to a frequently cited study (Makary 2006), "surgical specimen identification errors are common and pose important risks to all patients. In our study, these events occurred in 4.3 per 1000 surgical specimens or an annualized rate of occurrence of 182 mislabeled specimens per year."

These errors included:

- specimen not labeled
- empty container
- laterality incorrect
- incorrect tissue site
- incorrect patient
- no patient name
- no tissue site

Surgical specimen identification errors are common and pose important risks to all patients.

The authors concluded that given the frequency of these events and the potential harm to patients, strategies to reduce these errors and create a culture of safety should be a priority.

Key to maintaining comprehensive safety is to leverage systems that remove the possibility of certain risks. BiopSafe is simple in design and usability, with a direct application: a safer and more efficient platform for the storage and handling of tissue obtained in biopsy procedures. One immediate and impactful addition to the process that will benefit everyone involved.

BiopSafe

PRESS FOR BETTER SAFETY

Protecting the lives of those who save lives



Revolutionary tissue sample fixation vial

- Guaranteed zero exposure to formaldehyde
- Prefilled cap prevents spills and exposure to harmful gases
- Streamlines the vial preparation process

Axlab Innovation

Lic. Adriana Llosa +58-4242971598 a.llosa@resansil.com General Manager

MD. Tony Conti +1 305-469-9635 t.conti@resansil.com Director

www.biopsafe.com

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