



SAFETY ALERT

Laceration to finger

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

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Category: Injury
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Description:

An undergraduate student cut their finger when the glass rod they were using to pack cotton into an Eppendorf tube (See Image 1) for mosquito feeding broke.



Image 1. Eppendorf tube

The student sought medical treatment from their medical trainer.

Findings:

- The cotton was soaked with sugar water.
- This task has been performed by the student on several occasions.
- The student was wearing eye protection but was not wearing gloves.
- Student attempted to notify supervisor by cell phone but did not leave a message.

Root Causes:

- A glass rod was chosen over a different type of rod such as wood or plastic.
- The student applied pressure to the glass rod when the cotton did not pack easily.

Recommended Actions:

- Identify a different tool to complete the task of packing the cotton.
- Instruct the student to report the injury immediately to someone in the building if the supervisor is not readily available.
- Instruct undergraduate students to seek treatment at University Health Services.