



SAFETY ALERT

Scratch to Eye

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

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Category: Injury
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Description:

A technician was removing an aluminum cap from a vial (see Photo 1) when a small piece of the metal flew up, scratching her left eye.

The technician sought medical treatment at the Wellness Center.

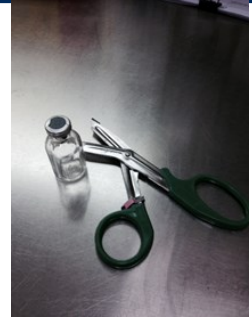


Photo 1. Injection Vial

Findings:

- The technician was removing the aluminum cap from an injection vial for cleaning.
- The technician was using utility scissors.
- The technician had done this procedure many times.
- The researcher was not wearing eye protection.

Root Causes:

- Using utility scissors did not contain cap when removing it from the injection vial.
- There was no written procedure for this procedure including engineering controls and required ppe.

Recommended Actions:

- Conduct a risk assessment on the process to identify controls needed for the hazards involved.
- Conduct a PPE assessment to identify appropriate PPE when removing the caps/washing vials.
- Identify different tool that will not cut the metal and train personnel on the use of the tool.