

## Vorgehen nach Nadelstichen

ENGLISCH

### Procedure after needlestick injuries or similar blood contacts – Information leaflet for cleaning personnel and assistants

On most needles of used syringes, small amounts of blood can be found. One single stick with a used needle can suffice for acquiring severe diseases like hepatitis B, hepatitis C or – in rare instances – HIV (AIDS). This is also possible in case of injuries with used scalpels (knives), dentistry drills, blood contaminated infusion systems, as well as for contact of blood or blood contaminated material with damaged skin and mucous membrane.

Hepatitis B is a severe liver disease which leads to death within a few weeks in about 1% of all cases and remains chronic in 5-10%.

If you have suffered a needlestick injury or a cut let the wound bleed, wash it with water and disinfect thoroughly. Then report this event *immediately* to your occupational health professional or – if you cannot reach him – to the next doctor. By checking in your records or by testing a blood sample, it can be assessed whether a risk for infection exists. An active or combined active/passive hepatitis B vaccination might be necessary for preventing infection. It could be very helpful if you knew the name of the patient from whom the blood contaminated device originates.

Please be aware that blood contacts can occur in unusual ways and that sometimes one even does not notice them. The best prevention of hepatitis B is therefore the vaccination. Everyone is liable to contacts with blood or blood tinged material/fluids at work and who is not protected against hepatitis B should therefore, be vaccinated. This also includes cleaning personnel.

**If you do not know whether you are protected against hepatitis B, please ask your occupational health unit!**