Procedure Following a Needlestick Injury

Clear case of needlestick
- Donor known
  - Donor negative no further measures
  - Donor uncertain
    - Proceed as under donor unknown
- Donor unknown
  - Check contents of bag
    - Proceed as under donor unknown
  - Hepatitis and HIV serology immediately
    - Quickly administer PEP
  - Hepatitis vaccination
    - Booster when titer <100

Questionable case of needlestick
- Eg. Injury with rubbish bag
  - Donor known
    - Donor negative no further measures
    - Donor uncertain
      - Proceed as under donor unknown
  - Donor unknown
    - Check contents of bag
      - Proceed as under donor unknown

Every prophylaxis is just a belated attempt to prevent an infection and thus a life-threatening illness. There is no guarantee that it will succeed. The best prophylaxis is prevention.

What Does Effective Infection Protection Cost?

Needlestick injuries cause high costs. Various studies have calculated costs ranging from EUR 356 to EUR 3465 for a needlestick. On average the costs are round EUR 500, according to reliable calculations made by occupational health practitioners in Wuppertal. The costs incurred due to work stoppage are not included.

For around 50,000 reported needlestick injuries in Germany, for example, costs of approx. 25 million euros arise. If the costs for the needlestick injuries that go unreported are added, then economic damages amount to about 47 million euros in Germany alone.

Over the past 4 years the costs for safety products have decreased.

Today protection of employees from dangerous infections in the healthcare sector is virtually self-financing with safe devices, thus ensuring staff increased personal safety when dealing with patients, and improving life quality.

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