

Medical Safety Information

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency

pmda No. 18 June, 2010

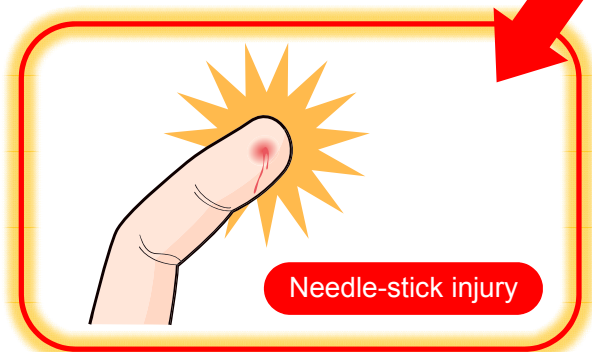
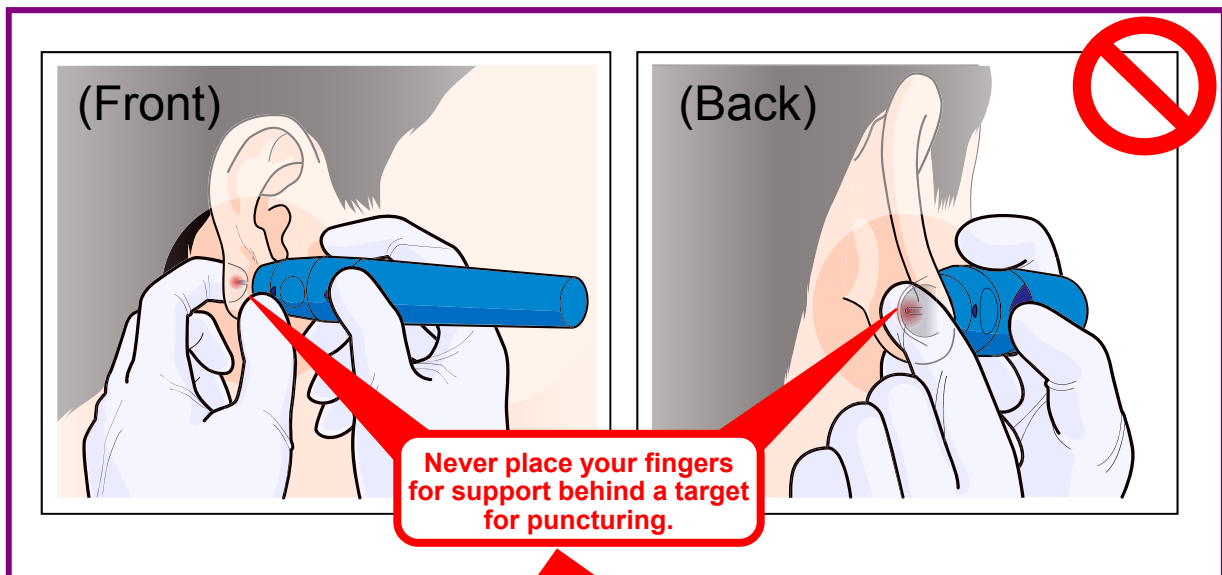
Precautions in Handling of Lancing Devices for Capillary Blood Sampling

POINT Key points for safe use

(Case) When a nurse was taking capillary blood samples from the patient's earlobe using a lancing device to perform blood glucose monitoring, the needle accidentally penetrated the earlobe and punctured the nurse's finger for support behind the patient's earlobe.

1 Precautions when taking blood samples from the earlobe

- Do not place your fingers for support behind a target for blood sampling where the tissue is thin such as the earlobe, etc.



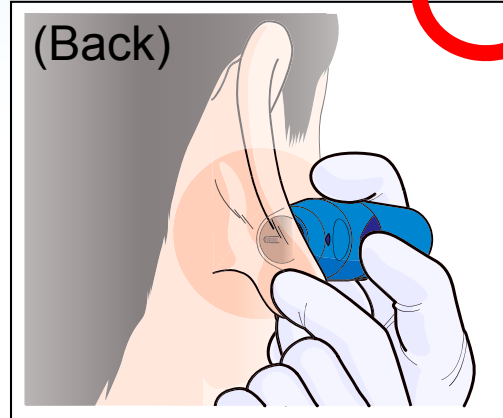
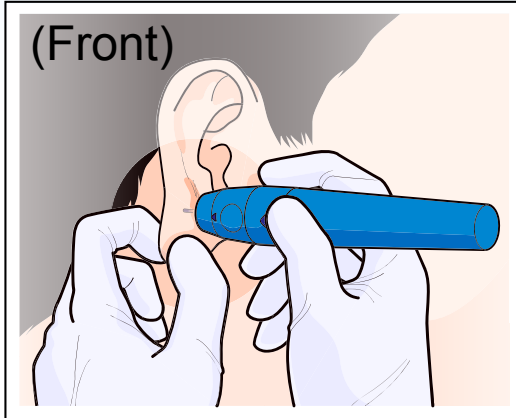
A needle-stick injury in a finger through an earlobe may lead to **blood-borne infection**.



2 Examples of how to take blood samples from the earlobe

- To take blood samples from the earlobe without placing the finger for support behind the target of puncturing, there are methods such as below.

(Example 1) Pull the edge of the earlobe for support



If there is a risk of penetration, confirm the package insert and look for areas for blood sampling where the tissue is thicker, instead of the earlobe.

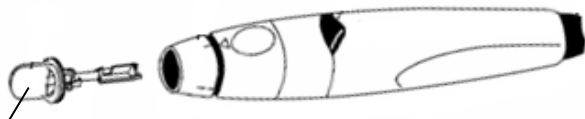
Information on the package inserts of the lancing devices related to this Medical Safety Information is available at the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) website (in Japanese), (<http://www.info.pmda.go.jp/download/md/whatsnew/companylist/companyframe.html>).

Types of lancing devices for capillary blood sampling (from PMDA Medical Safety Information No. 5)

1 An entire device is disposable

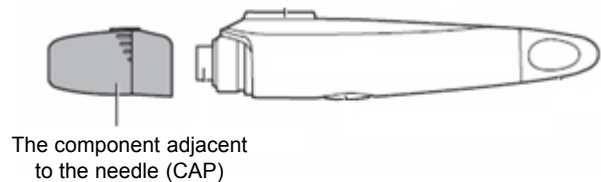
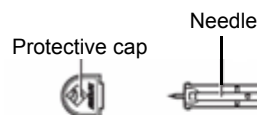


2 A component adjacent to a needle is disposable



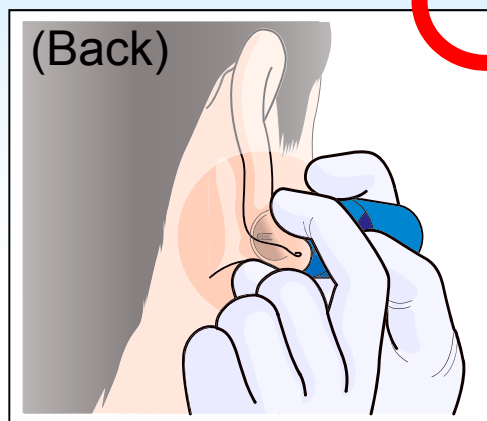
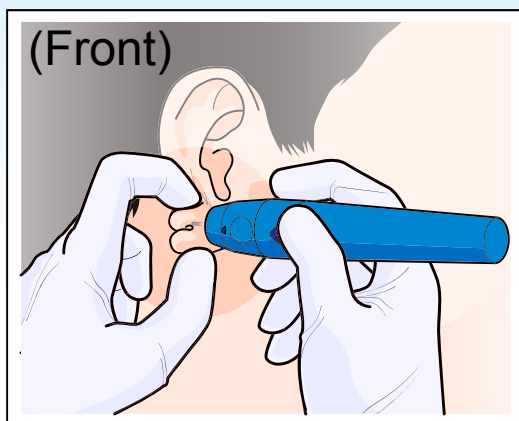
The needle and the adjacent component

3 A component adjacent to a needle is not disposable



- * For precautions relating to the lancing devices for capillary blood sampling, please see “PMDA Medical Safety Information No. 5, Handling of lancing devices for obtaining blood samples.”
Photos of products of various companies may also be found.

(Example 2) Bend the earlobe to form a letter "V"



Even when blood samples are taken using these methods, make sure that **your fingers are not placed in the direction where the needle sticks out**, to prevent accidental puncturing.

Some products restrict the target for blood sampling, while other products prohibit taking blood samples from the earlobes. **Thoroughly check the package inserts of the lancing devices to be used.**



The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) has issued notifications that are related to the issues in this PMDA Medical Safety Information No. 18.

- "Handling of Lancing Devices for Capillary Blood Sampling from Earlobe, etc. (Request for alert and provision of information to users)" (Joint HPB/GMSD Notification No. 0301-1 and PFSB/SD No. 0301-7 dated on March 1, 2010)

Information on this notification is available at the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Information website (in Japanese)

<http://www.info.pmda.go.jp/iryujiko/file/20100301.pdf>

About this information

- * PMDA Medical Safety Information is issued by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency for the purpose of providing healthcare providers with clearer information from the perspective of promoting the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The information presented here has been compiled, with the assistance of expert advice, from cases collected as Medical Accident Information Reports by the Japan Council for Quality Health Care, and collected as Adverse Drug Reaction and Malfunction Reports in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.
- * We have tried to ensure the accuracy of this information at the time of its compilation but do not guarantee its accuracy in the future.
- * This information is not intended to impose constraints on the discretion of healthcare professionals or to impose obligations and responsibility on them, but is provided as a support to promote the safe use of pharmaceuticals and medical devices by healthcare professionals.