

FOR THE SURGEON

Feature	SAFhandle™ System	All Other Disposable Systems	All Other Reusable Systems	Evaluation Sample 1	Evaluation Sample 2	Evaluation Sample 3
Stainless Steel Handle	YES	No	Varies			
Same Dimensions as Traditional Handle	YES	No	Varies			
Length	YES	Varies	Varies			
Width	YES	Varies	Varies			
Weight	YES	No	Varies			
Grip	YES	No	No			
Accepts a Full Range of Blade Sizes	YES	No	No	No	No	No
Accepts a Full Range of Blade Brands	Varies *	No	Varies	No	No	No
#3 Stainless Steel Handle Available	YES	No	YES			
#3L Stainless Steel Handle Available	YES	No	Varies	No	No	No
#4 Stainless Steel Handle Available	YES	No	YES			
#4L Stainless Steel Handle Available	YES	No	Varies	No	No	No
Centimeter Scale on Handle	YES	Varies	Varies			
Enhances Cutting Performance	YES	No	No	No	No	No
Same Technique as Traditional Handle	YES	No	No	No	No	No
Round Tip Safety Blades	YES	No	No	No	No	No
Diamantine(TM) Blades Stay Sharper Longer	YES	No	No	No	No	No
Suitable for Arthroscopy	YES	No	No	No	No	No

FOR THE NURSE

Feature	SAFhandle™ System	All Other Disposable Systems	All Other Reusable Systems	Evaluation Sample 1	Evaluation Sample 2	Evaluation Sample 3
Round Tip Blades Prevent Stab Wounds	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Easy Loading, No Friction Fit	Yes	N/A	Varies			
No Change in Aseptic Technique	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Hands Free Blade Removal	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Blade Remover Units NOT Required	Yes	N/A	N/A			
Blade Changes Possible During Surgery	Yes	No	Varies			

FOR THE RISK & MATERIALS MANAGERS

Feature	SAFhandle™ System	All Other Disposable Systems	All Other Reusable Systems	Evaluation Sample 1	Evaluation Sample 2	Evaluation Sample 3
Prevents Injuries During Loading	Yes	N/A	Varies			
Prevents Injuries During Use	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Prevents Injuries During Passing	Yes **	Varies **	Varies **			
Prevents Injuries During Blade Removal	Yes	N/A	Yes			
No Change in Aseptic Technique	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Durable Stainless Steel Handle	Yes	No	Varies			
Reusable	Yes	No	Yes			
Handles can be Reprocessed	Yes	No	Yes			
Manual Cleaning	Yes	N/A	Varies			
Ultrasonic Cleaning	Yes	N/A	Varies			
Washer - Disinfector Cleaning	Yes	N/A	Varies			
Sterilization	Yes	N/A	Yes			
Serial Number for Trackability	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
No Increase of Inventory Space	Yes	No	Varies	No	No	No
No Increase of Sharps Waste	Yes	No	Varies	No	No	No
No change in Sharps Disposal Containers	Yes	No	Varies			

* SAFhandle™ safety scalpel handles are not compatible with Rib-back blades.

** The assumption is that if the user fails to activate the safety feature of the scalpel and the blade remains exposed, then in that case the SAFhandle™ safety scalpel system is safer because of the round tip feature of its blade, a passive safety feature. The rate of activation of the sliding blade or sliding shield safety scalpels is inconsistent and therefore they provide an uncertain rate of protection.

It is recommended that all scalpels, regardless of whether fitted with a sliding blade or shield safety feature, are set down in a Hands Free Zone as the safe practice of passing scalpels.

¹“Scalpel safety”: Modeling the effectiveness of different safety devices’ ability to reduce scalpel blade injuries” International Journal of Risk & Safety in Medicine 20 (2008) 83–89 83 DOI 10.3233/JRS-2008-0428 IOS Press. Hector Fuentes, James Collier, Michael Sinnott and Michael Whitby.