

# Background: Retention of Tourniquet

## Result could be fatal

### Q&S Newsletter

(Mar 2012 Issue 6)

1. **NEVER** use latex glove as tourniquet or for haemostasis.
2. **NEVER** leave your tourniquet after blood taking and IV access.



1. 不可以用抽血帶作為止血之用；
2. 抽血 或 放置靜脈導管後，**必須移走** 抽血帶；
3. 不可以用橡膠手套，作為抽血 或 止血之用。

[Education links for reference.](#)

1. [HARA 01.30 A retained tourniquet can cause loss of fingers](#)
2. [HARA 11.40 Patient injury by tourniquet](#)
3. [HARA 23.70 Sharps Retained tourniquet](#)

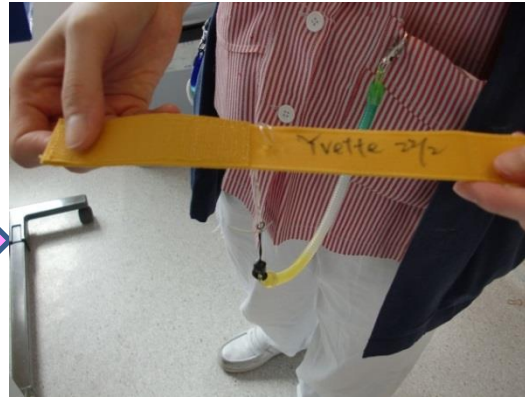
# Tourniquet with Safe Link System

- **Aim:** To eliminate the risk of retention of tourniquet by a safe-link mechanism in blood taking and intravenous cannulation procedures.
- **Method:**
  - 1) To design safe linking system (a plastic coil string to the tourniquet) between patient's limb and phlebotomist during procedures
  - 2) To document tourniquet removed after the procedures.
- **Infection control Measures:**
  - For Tourniquet**
    - Tourniquet should be discarded every week or when visibly soiled.
  - For the extension - plastic coil string**
    - Should be cleaned and disinfected before and after the procedure or when soiled.
- **Trial run** the safe-link system in March 2013 and evaluation was analyzed.
- **Full implement** the safe-link system among the phlebotomists in July 2013.

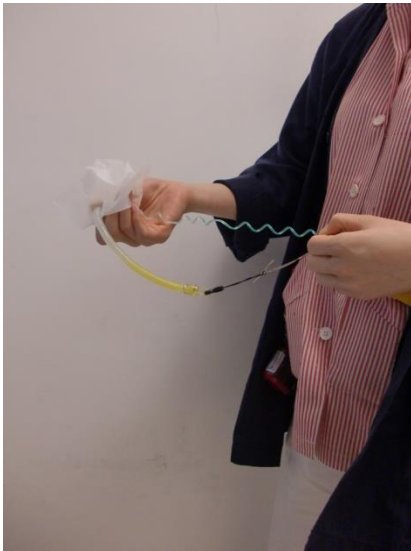
Place in a plastic bag to keep away from contacting the staff



Label with staff name and start date.



Apply on patient's limb. Visible & Self-Alert.



Clean the string by alcohol wipe before and after the procedure.



Retention of tourniquet is avoidable.



Simple and effective.

# 風險管理系列 (I)

## 抽血帶的忠告

請記得帶我走



作用：增加壓力，使血管充盈，助抽血、「打豆」程序，只作短暫用途，故此紮肢體時間不多於1-2分鐘

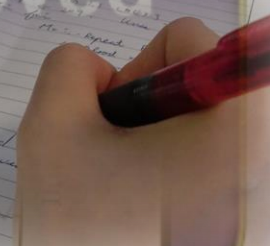
切忌：不能當作止血之用

守則：(1) 做程序前，車上只有一條抽血帶；(2) 程序後，Check-Check有沒有遺留

(3) 記錄在病人牌板上: **Tourniquet Removed**

遵守

24/7/2013	Phlebotomist	Blood Taken & sent Tourniquet removed
10-05		



# Evaluation

- Phlebotomists welcomed the system served the purpose of eliminating the risk of tourniquet retention by:
  1. **Visual checking** of the prominent link and immediate reminder were effective.
  2. **Feeling the link** if still connecting to the patient when the phlebotomist left unintentionally.
  3. **Documentation** of removal of the tourniquet.
- Retrospective audit on documentation & Surprise audit on the usage during July 2013 till January 2014; the **compliance rate was 100%**.
- **No incident of retention of tourniquet was reported** by the phlebotomists since July 2013.
- In the long run, **auto alarming system** on the tourniquet will be explored in the future.