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Invention aids safer use of scalpels. 14/10/2005. ABC News Online

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Invention aids safer use of scalpels

An Australian company has produced a device to make scalpels safer, reducing the risk of injury to doctors and nurses.

The device, called a sterile blade remover, was developed by Brisbane based company Qlicksmart and is expected to reduce accidents involving scalpels by half.

It enables staff to remove blades and put them in clear containers without the risk of injury.

Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane launched the device at St Vincent's and Mercy Private Hospital in Melbourne.

"Now not only does that protect the nurses or the doctor or whoever is handling the scalpel from cutting themselves when they remove the used scalpel blade, but it allows it to be kept in such a way that the blades can be counted at the end of the operation and that's a very important part of any medical procedure," he said.

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