Double Gloving Greatly Reduces the Hazards of Exposure to Hepatitis B, C, and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus…

Why?

- The risk for blood-borne exposures and infections are **highest** in the operating room environment. These Infections include; Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV), and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)\(^1\)

- An overwhelming majority of glove perforations go **unnoticed**\(^2\)

- Double gloving (wearing two pairs of gloves) **significantly reduces** the perforation rate of the inner glove by at least 70 per cent compared to single gloving\(^2\)

- The blood on a solid suture needle is **reduced** as much as 95 per cent when passing through two glove layers\(^3\)

- Double Gloving is a **recommended practice** by;
  - The Australian College of Operating Room Nurses\(^4\)
  - The Australian Government Department of Health and Aging\(^5\)
  - The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons’ Infection Control\(^6\)

So…Double Glove!

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\(^1\) Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NIOSH 2004. Publication No. 2004-146. Worker Health Chartbook  
\(^3\) Berguer R and Heller P. Strategies for preventing sharps injuries in the operating room. Surgical Clinic of North America. 2005; vol 85: 1299-1305  