

### Disarming a Scalpel

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#### Video Transcript

Just as in arming a scalpel, it is very important to learn how to disarm a scalpel correctly in order to avoid potentially serious injury. In this topic, we will demonstrate each step of the disarming technique.

Using your non-dominant hand, grasp the surgical scalpel in the center of the handle. Position the blade lock facing upward. With the angled base of the blade facing your hand, orient the cutting edge of the blade away from yourself and others.

Use the tips of the needle holder to grip the slanted edge of the blade base. Make certain that you have a firm grasp on the blade base so that the needle holder does not slip off.

Carefully lift the blade from the slanted end of the blade lock until the key-like blade slot separates from the handle lock. You might hear a click, and the blade will loosen on the scalpel handle. Push the blade away from yourself and toward the tip of the scalpel handle. If the blade lodges as you try to remove it, you might need to twist or wiggle the blade slightly as you slide it off.

Dispose of the used blade properly by placing it in a specified “sharps” container, being careful not to touch any non-sterile surfaces during blade disposal.

