



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPENING ONE POINT CUT (OPC) AMPOULES



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# GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

## FOR OPENING AMPOULES



### PREPARE YOUR WORK AREA

- The medicinal product<sup>1</sup> filled in glass ampoules must remain sterile. Therefore, clean the work area and have everything ready at hand, such as tissue paper, syringe, injection needle, surgical gloves, and the unpacked ampoules (Figure 1). The use of an ampoule holder may be helpful.
- Never have more than one product or concentration of a product in the work area!
- Wash and disinfect your hands. Disinfect the outside of the ampoules with alcohol wipes or by other means (Figure 2 and 3).
- For additional protection you can open the glass ampoule using a tissue paper (Figure 4).



<sup>1</sup> Known as: **Aethoxysklerol, Aetoxisclérol, Etoxisclerol, Atossisklerol, Polidocasklerol, and Asclera.**



## 1 INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPENING ONE POINT CUT (OPC) AMPOULES WITHOUT AMPOULE OPENER

### THE AMPOULES

The medicinal product is filled into so-called One Point Cut (OPC) ampoules. These ampoules are pre-scored and ready to open without additional scoring. A coloured dot on the bulbous part of the ampoule indicates the position of the score. OPC ampoules can be opened easily and safely, reducing the risk of splintering and / or sharp edges.



### OPENING OPC AMPOULES

- Pick up the ampoule and hold it between your thumb and index finger (Figure 5).
- If there is liquid in the top of the ampoule, gently tap it with a finger of the other hand to get all the liquid into the bottom part of the ampoule (Figure 6).



- Hold the bottom part of the ampoule so that you are looking directly at the coloured dot on the bulbous part of the ampoule.
- Grasp the top of the ampoule with the other hand: put the thumb onto the coloured dot and the index finger of the same hand on the other side (back) of the bulbous part close to the neck of the ampoule (Figure 7).
- The ampoule is now held with both hands.



- Hold the bottom of the ampoule firmly while pushing the top section **away from the coloured dot** with light, even pressure. Take care that the ampoule is held in an upright position.
- The break should occur spontaneously and without great effort (Figure 8). A light pressure should cleanly snap the ampoule open, whereas using too much force can cause it to shatter. Do not use the medicine if your ampoule shatters.
- If at first the ampoule does not break in the expected fashion, readjust the position of the ampoule in your hands and try again. If a particular ampoule seems extremely hard to open, do not try to open it by force. Try with another ampoule or use an ampoule opener (see section 2).

## 2 INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPENING ONE POINT CUT (OPC) AMPOULES WITH AN AMPOULE OPENER

### THE AMPOULES

The medicinal product is filled into so-called One Point Cut (OPC) ampoules. These ampoules are pre-scored and ready to open without additional scoring. A coloured dot on the bulbous part of the ampoule indicates the position of the score. OPC ampoules can be opened easily and safely with an ampoule opener, reducing the risk of splintering and / or sharp edges.



### OPENING OPC AMPOULES WITH AN AMPOULE OPENER

- Pick up the ampoule and hold it between your thumb and index finger (Figure 9).
- If there is liquid in the top of the ampoule, gently tap it with a finger of the other hand to get all the liquid into the bottom part of the ampoule (Figure 10).



- Hold the bottom part of the ampoule so that you are looking directly at the coloured dot on the bulbous part of the ampoule.
- Pick up the ampoule opener with the other hand.
- Slip the ampoule opener over the top of the ampoule. It will slip right into the neck below the bulbous part of the ampoule.
- Grasp the ampoule opener with your thumb and index finger placed on opposite sides of the ampoule opener on the indicated area close to the ampoule neck and make sure that the dot on the ampoule is still in position under your thumb (Figure 11).
- The ampoule is now held with one hand holding the body of the ampoule and the other holding the ampoule opener in the indicated area over the top of the ampoule.



- Hold the bottom of the ampoule and the opener firmly while pushing the ampoule opener **away from the coloured dot** with light, even pressure. Take care that the ampoule is held in an upright position.
- The break should occur spontaneously and without great effort.
- Be careful! Do not be surprised if the ampoule top jumps out of the opener when the ampoule snaps open (Figure 12).



## SAFETY ASPECTS AND MISTAKES

- To prevent shattering of the glass, never use too much force. Never try to break ampoules by force!
- Always apply pressure away from the coloured dot, never in any other direction.
- Avoid any pushing, pulling, or twisting actions while applying pressure on the ampoule to open it.
- Pressure between the index finger and the thumb of either hand can cause the ampoule to break in an unintended fashion and may cause injuries to the operator.
- If at first the ampoule does not break in the expected fashion, readjust the position of the ampoule in your hands and try again. If a particular ampoule seems extremely hard to open, do not try to open it by force. Try with another ampoule or use an ampoule opener.
- Do not use the medicine if your ampoule shatters or if the opened ampoule is contaminated with glass after opening.

Experience is essential for a clean break when opening ampoules and operators will find that they will develop their individual opening technique with time.

