



CLINICAL EVIDENCE FOR DOUBLE GLOVING

Wearing two pairs of sterile gloves during surgical procedures, or “double gloving,” is a practice that healthcare workers (HCWs) implement to reduce their risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens (BBP). Double gloving has been shown to provide higher resistance to perforations and decrease the volume of blood than single gloves.¹ A 2015 study by Makama et al. found that double gloving provided more than 90% protection to end-user even though the top layer was torn.²



Evidence has shown that surgical glove microperforations occur commonly during surgical procedures regardless of the specialty,⁵ and often go unnoticed by the wearer.⁴ According to a 2014 systematic review of randomized controlled trials on double gloving, glove perforations are reduced by 71% when wearing two pairs of gloves compared to wearing only one.³

Benefits to Double Gloving

Increased resistance to puncture

More force is required to puncture two layers of gloves compared to a single layer with equivalent thickness.¹

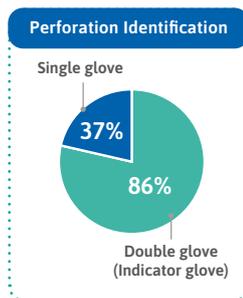
Lower transmission of bodily fluid

Following a needlestick injury, double gloves (16%) vs single gloves (21%) demonstrated a lower volume of fluid transmission, reducing the potential risk of BBP transmission.¹

Increased Perforation Awareness

Wearing a colored underglove increased perforation identification to 86% versus 37% with a single glove.⁴

Association of periOperative registered nurses (AORN) recommends the use of a perforation indicator system to identify glove breaches.⁵



Common Objections to Double Gloving

Double gloves affect manual dexterity and touch

A study by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) demonstrated double gloving does not have a substantial impact on manual dexterity or tactile sensitivity when compared with no gloves or single gloving.⁶

Double gloves are uncomfortable and do not fit well

A study published in the Canadian Journal of Surgery showed that surgeons routinely double gloving did not report any negative impact on tactile sensitivity compared to those wearing a single pair of gloves.⁷

Double gloving will take a long time to adapt to

A study by Berguer and Heller suggests that surgeons who always or usually double glove report a period of up to 120 days (2 days in most cases) is required to adapt to double gloving.⁸

Make double gloving YOUR standard of practice for optimal protection

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