Coring

ALK TECHNICAL MEMO
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ALK Medical Scientific Affairs

ALK has been in the allergenic extract market for over 95 years. Since entering the US market in 1985, ALK has grown to be one of the top US extract suppliers, providing consistent, quality products to numerous markets offering allergy testing and treatment. This technical memo serves as a guidance document for the proper insertion and use of needles into ALK extract vials.

Coring is the shearing off of rubber from a vial stopper, which can occur during needle insertion. Coring commonly occurs due to the following circumstances: improper location for needle insertion; improper angle for needle insertion; and/or large bore needle utilization. Coring will appear as small grey or dark particles that float around the vial.

To minimize the risk of coring, the following should be considered:

1. Avoid using large bore needles which may cause excessive damage to the rubber stopper with repeated use. Large bore needles are found on syringes with LOWER gauges. Try to use syringes with a HIGHER gauge (between 21 and 27 gauge).
2. Avoid using needles with blunt tips. Try to use syringes with sharp beveled tips.
3. Always insert the needle in the center of the rubber stopper (within the inner circle). This area is thinner than the perimeter and is designed to handle repeated insertions.
4. When inserting the needle, use an angled entry with the bevel tip facing the stopper (see figure). Insert carefully and try to minimize the force of entry.
5. Avoid reusing needles. Needle reuse will dull a needle and increase the chance of coring.

Proper insertion technique of a syringe into a vial. Puncture the rubber stopper at an angle through the center. Ensure the tip is pointed downward. Insert carefully and try to minimize the force of entry.

ALK Commitment

ALK is committed to helping Allergy Specialists maintain uniformity of care for their patients. Please do not hesitate to contact your Allergy Consultant, Customer Service (800.325.7354) or Medical Scientific Affairs (855.782.9323, science@alk.net, or submit your scientific questions to our 24/7 online helpdesk in a support ticket at: https://alkinc.freshdesk.com) should you have additional questions or concerns regarding a switch to ALK products.

The information provided in this memo is not sufficient for proper diagnosis and treatment of patients. A thorough evaluation by their healthcare provider is required prior to any changes to immunotherapy. All decisions regarding potential patient care are solely at the discretion of the treating physician. Please see full prescribing information.

References

1. Gallagher, P. (2014, June 23). *Causes of Coring and Fragmentation in the Field*. Retrieved from http://www.westpharma.com.