

**Reported Problem with Miltex 12B Blades (10/08)**

DECS recently learned of a potential problem with Miltex 12B blades (Lot #S07C06). A clinician reported several instances of the Miltex 12B blades breaking during surgery. All blades that broke were from the same lot number (S07C06). The clinic forwarded samples of these blades to DECS for evaluation and testing. Digital stereomicroscope evaluation revealed manufacturing defects. Blades of the involved lot number displayed irregular machining creating uneven bevels. Of most concern are over-machined scalpel tips displaying areas of thinner metal thickness, which could be the location of failure.

DECS recommends that clinics stop using Miltex 12B blades (Lot # S07C06) and remove these blades from all patient-care and storage areas. DECS is working with the manufacturer regarding disposition of the affected blades and will post updates on the "Alerts" page.