Risk Assessment

For each practical we complete in class you must perform a risk assessment. It provides a useful opportunity to identify:

* + any significant hazards associated with the practical activity
  + suggest appropriate and reasonable measures required to reduce risk to an acceptable level

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| Name of practical activity:  Staining of root tip meristems to see mitosis | | |
| Hazard | Risk associated with hazard | Method to reduce risk |
| 1. Acetic Orcein | Corrosive – hazardous if ingested, will produce burns if in contact with skin. Can cause harm to eyes | **Wear eye protection**.  Use in small volumes.  Bottle should be firmly stoppered when not being used. Once tips added to orcein replace stopper and place vial in the small beaker in the water bath to keep it upright rather than loose in water bath.  Be very careful not to spill on skin. Wash skin immediately if any contact and dilute spills on surfaces, then wipe up. |
| 1. 1M Hydrochloric acid | Low hazard but could be harmful to skin or eyes | **Wear eye protection**  Wash skin immediately if any contact. |
| 1. Glass wear | Breaking slides or cover slips causing cuts | Demonstrate correct way to carry out squash, ensure slide on flat surface.  Cuts should be treated immediately. No attempt should be made to remove broken glass from wounds.  Apart from very minor injuries, a First Aider should be called.    Broken glass must be disposed of into specially designated bins and not into the normal waste bins |
| 1. 55 – 600C water bath | Burns or scalds | Place affected area under a cold running tap. |