- 16 Misra SP, Dwivedi M, Awasthi DN. Choledocholithiasis mimicking *Ascaris lumbricoides*: problem in ultrasound differential diagnosis. *Trop Doc* 1999;29:110-11.
- 17 Dewbury KC, Smith CL. The misdiagnosis of common bile duct stones with ultrasound. *J Radiol* 1983;56:625-30.
- 18 Einstein DM, Lapin SA, Rail PW. The insensitivity of sonography in the detection of choledocholithiasis. *Am J Radiol* 1984;142:725-8.
- 19 Kane RA. The biliary system. In: Kurtz AB, Goldberg BB, eds. *Gastrointestinal ultrasonography. Clinics in diagnostic ultrasound*. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1988; pp 75-137.
- 20 Cohen S. The sluggish gallbladder of pregnancy. *N Engl J Med* 1980;302:397-8.
- 21 Abe A. The hormonal control and effects of drugs and ions on the electrical and mechanical activity of the uterus. In: Bulbring E, Brading A, Jones A, Tomito T, eds. *Smooth muscle*. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1970; pp 396-417.
- 22 Somlyo AP, Somlyo AV. Vascular smooth muscle: pharmacology of normal and hypertensive vessels. *Pharmacol Rev* 1970;22:249-353.
- 23 Schulze K, Christensen J. Lower sphincter of the opossum esophagus in pseudopregnancy. *Gastroenterology* 1977;73:1082-5.
- 24 Fisher RS, Roberts GS, Grabowski CJ, Cohen S. Inhibition of lower esophageal sphincter circular muscle by female sex hormones. *Am J Physiol* 1978;234:E 243-7.
- 25 Everson GT, McKinley C, Lawson M, Johnson M, Kern F Jr. Gallbladder function in the human female: effect of the ovulatory cycle, pregnancy and contraceptive steroids. *Gastroenterology* 1982;82:711-9.
- 26 Nilsson S, Stattin S. Gallbladder emptying during the normal menstrual cycle. *Acta Chir Scand* 1967;133:648-52.
- 27 Misra SP, Dwivedi M. Removal of *Ascaris lumbricoides* from the bile duct using balloon sphincteroplasty. *Endoscopy* 1998;30:S6-7.

Images in medicine

Needles should not be re-sheathed

Re-sheathing needles is commonly practised despite universal condemnation.^{1 2} Even if this can be done without pricking oneself, another hidden danger is that of re-sheathing a large needle with a smaller sheath. It can be seen that the needle has penetrated the sheath and is therefore dangerous. Needles should not be re-sheathed under any circumstances.

A HUANG

Department of General Surgery

D DUTTA

Department of Anaesthetics

*Milton Keynes General Hospital, Standing Way,
Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LD, UK*

Correspondence to Mr A Huang, 40 York Terrace East,
London NW1 4PT, UK

Submitted 12 August 1999

Accepted 19 August 1999

1 *The impact of HIV on surgical practice*. London: Royal College of Surgeons of England, 1992.

2 *Guidance for clinical health care workers: protection against infection with HIV and hepatitis viruses*. London: HMSO, 1990.