

## STABBING

These patients should always be managed in the resuscitation room. Deal with the life threatening problems in an ABC manner. **Remember** to record the implement used, e.g. a knife: record blade length, shape, serrated edge? Assault by stabbing is a dynamic situation so that in a wound in one position can cause injury to internal tissue from an unlikely region, due to movement. Document the length of any wounds and accurately annotate a diagram to show where they are. There are trauma charts available for this. **Remember** your notes will very probably be reviewed in court!

**Do not** probe or explore wounds. **All** stabbed patients are admitted to the appropriate specialty.

Some limb wounds may be cleaned (with thorough wound toilet, flushed with saline) dressed and reviewed in a couple of days.

This is only appropriate when it has been confirmed that there is no significant neurovascular deficit.

Remember that stab wounds may, from the surface, look spectacularly unimpressive and yet overlie significant internal problems, e.g. buttock wounds causing bowel/vascular injuries.