Comment on ‘Continuing need for and provision of a service for non-standard implant removal’

We would like to thank Mary Pillai et al. for their very useful article on non-standard implant removal that appeared in the April 2014 Journal.

We have found, in deep implant work in two centres in Lewisham and Slough, UK, that while the depth of the implant on ultrasound is important, it is also crucial to know if the device is above, below or in the muscle fascia, as a modified U-technique is unlikely to succeed unless the implant is in the subcutaneous fat. This is because ring forceps cannot usually grip an implant through the fascia.

An audit of 94 patients referred to the Garden Clinic in Slough for difficult removals revealed that 29 implants were impalpable (including one Jadelle®). One implant (an Implanon®) was not found and the etonogestrel assay was negative so it was decided that the implant was not present. Of the 28 implants only located on scanning, 18 were above the fascia (five were removed by the direct vision method and 13 by the U-technique), two were within the fascia and eight were below the fascia (all 10 of these implants could only be removed under direct vision).

Also (and quite astonishingly) it is worth remembering another cause of missing implants: one recently reported by a Lewisham patient as being felt by her in her left arm was completely impalpable but was easily located in her right arm!

Lesley Bacon, FFSRH
Consultant in Sexual and Reproductive Health, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, London, UK; leslie.bacon@nhs.net

Hala Mahfoud, MFSRH
Staff Grade Doctor in Sexual and Reproductive Health, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, London, UK; hala.mahfoud1@nhs.net

Competing interests None.

REFERENCES

3 Mahfoud HF. Deep implant removal referral centre – 94 cases performed. Poster presented at the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Annual Scientific Meeting, Edinburgh, UK, 26–27 April 2012.
Comment on 'Continuing need for and provision of a service for non-standard implant removal'

Lesley Bacon and Hala Mahfoud

*J Fam Plann Reprod Health Care* 2014 40: 234
doi: 10.1136/jfprhc-2014-100957

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jfprhc.bmj.com/content/40/3/234.1

These include:

**References**

This article cites 2 articles, 2 of which you can access for free at:
http://jfprhc.bmj.com/content/40/3/234.1#BIBL

**Email alerting service**

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

**Notes**

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/