

# The needle-less injection

**F**OR THE millions terrified of injections, scientists have developed a syringe-type device that delivers drugs through the skin without needles.

The Glide Solid Dose Injector (SDI) is a pen-shaped handheld pump which pierces and penetrates the skin in less than a second. It distributes medication by firing miniature pellets into the body at high speed.

The drug, which is contained within a small sugar or polymer, then dissolves harmlessly into the skin's tissues.

Some patients who have to self-medicate, such as insulin-dependent diabetics, fail to maintain their treatment because they are so afraid of needles.

Charles Potter, founder and CEO of the Oxford-based firm Glide Pharma which invented the device, says: "The Glide SDI takes a fraction of a second to make the hole - which feels like a scratch."

In a clinical trial, 88 per cent of needle-phobic volunteers said they preferred the sensation of the device to traditional needles.

The invention was honoured at the recent Medical Futures Innovation Awards and could be widely available within the next four years.

**KATE BOHDANOWICZ**

