BOX 21-11  NURSING CARE CHECKLIST

Liver Biopsy

Before the Procedure
- Verify informed consent for the procedure has been obtained.
- Reinforce teaching about the procedure and its purpose.
- Keep NPO as ordered, usually 4 to 6 hours before the procedure.
- Assess and record baseline vital signs.
- Review prothrombin time (PT) and platelet count; administer vitamin K as ordered.
- Have the client empty bladder immediately before the test.
- Place client in supine position on far right side of bed; turn head to left and extend right arm above head for better visualization of the biopsy site.

During the Procedure
- Help client hold breath following expiration to keep diaphragm and liver high in the abdominal cavity during needle insertion (see Figure 21-5).
- Obtaining biopsy tissue usually requires only 10 to 15 seconds.
- Some pain or discomfort may be experienced during the procedure.

After the Procedure
- Apply direct pressure to the site immediately after the needle is removed.
- Position client on right side.
- Frequently assess site and vital signs for evidence of bleeding; report immediately.
- Advise that pain may occur in the right shoulder as the anesthetic loses effect.
- Keep NPO for 2 hours (or as ordered), then resume usual diet.
- Instruct to avoid coughing, lifting, or straining for 1 to 2 weeks.