

EmergencyKT: Marine Envenomations

Shocks

Electric Eels

- Supportive care
- Treat wounds like burns
- Topical antibiotics as needed

Stings

Lionfish, Sea Urchins, Sting Rays, Catfish, Starfish, Weever Fish

- Warm water emersion (45 degrees C) until pain improved
- Remove any spines with tweezers
- Tetanus booster
- Consider antibiotics (Keflex)

Surface Stings (Nematocysts)

Jelly Fish, Anemones, Coral, Portuguese Man of War

- Supportive care
- Warm water emersion (45 degrees)
- Scrape nematocysts with credit card to remove stingers
- May soak in Vinegar for jelly fish or man of war stings.

Stonefish

- ABCs
- Supportive Care
- Warm water emersion 45 degrees
- Antivenom available Newport Aquarium
- CSL Stonefish antivenom
 - IM only
 - 1-2 spines: 1 vial
 - 3-4 spines: 2 vials
 - Greater than 4 spines: 3 vials

Box Jelly Fish

- ABCs
- Supportive Care
- Warm water emersion (45 degrees)
- Antivenom available – CSL Box Jellyfish Antivenom (3 vials) IV through drip
 - May be given IM as needed up to 6 vials
- Potential for anaphylaxis.

Bites

Octopi or Sea Snakes

- Supportive Care
- Clean wound
- Multivalent snake antivenom for paralysis or myolysis
- CSL Sea Snake Antivenom
 - IV drip over 15-30 min. 1-3 vials

Reference:

1. www.emedicine.com/emerg/topic104 Coelenterate and Jellyfish Envenomations. Chanida Sintuu MD. May 2006
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3. Australian Marine Envenomations. www.usyd.edu.au/anaes/venom/envenomation.html
4. Auerbach, P. Wilderness Medicine 5th edition.