

Sea Animal Envenomation



National Poisons Information Centre
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Jelly fish (Lodiya)

- ❖ Jellyfish stings are not seasonal but seem to occur throughout the year. They have nearly see through bodies with long, tentacles.
- ❖ Stings can cause mild skin irritation to severe symptoms as redness of skin, swelling, skin rashes, headache, salivation, rapid respiration, increasing heart rate, abdominal discomfort, faintishness, joint pain and paralysis.



Sea Urchin (Ikiri)



The sea urchin is a spiny, hard-shelled creature that lives on the rocky seafloor, usually found in shallow waters around Unawatuna, Hikkaduwa and Beruwala .

- ❑ *Toxopneustes* species is known as poisonous. They cause problems to bathers, divers and anyone who likes to go wading in the sea.
- ❑ Their long sharp spines inflict a painful wound if they penetrate human skin.
- ❑ Multiple deep punctures can cause fatigue, weakness, muscle aches, shock, and paralysis. Shortness of breath and death also may occur.
- ❑ Spines may break when they go through muscles, in which case need to cut open the area to remove the spines.

Porcupine fish



- ❖ These fish are medium to large in size found in shallow, temperate and tropical sea water. Their body is covered with sharp spines.
- ❖ These spines are visible even prior to “puffing up”.
- ❖ These spines inflict a painful wound and swelling .
- ❖ Some of their internal organs having a potent neurotoxin; inhibit neural transmission; which can cause paralysis and death.

“Never eat their flesh ”

Scorpion fish (Ginimaha)



- Scorpion fish live in tropical water including warm shorelines of the coastal area.
- The fins of these prickly fish carry poisonous venom.
- Their stings can cause intense pain and swelling at the site of sting. If the victim has cardiac problems or other diseases these stings may cause death.

Sea snake (Walakkadiya)



- Sea snakes are found around the coast and coral reefs in sea.
- Their venoms are **more toxic** than those of land snakes.
- They are usually not aggressive unless provoked.

Sea snake (Walakkadiya)

- ❖ Therefore **65%** of sea snake bites are **non-venomous**.
- ❖ Sea snake bites are usually painless and cause no local inflammation at the site of bite.
- ❖ The typical symptoms begin within 3-4 hours after the bite. The common symptoms are muscle pain, inability to move limbs (Paralysis), joint aches, blurred vision, and difficulty in swallowing, excessive salivation and droopy eye lids

First Aids for Sea Animal Envenomation

- Prevent drowning.
- Reassure, to relieve anxiety.
- Immobilise to prevent spread of venom.
- Remove adherent tentacles or spines using a tweezer. If a spine is embedded in the chest, neck or stomach, take the person to hospital without attempting to remove them.



First Aids for Sea Animal Envenomation

- In the case of sea urchins, vinegar is helpful as it dissolves their spines.
- Apply ice pack for pain relief
- Do not apply Methyl alcohol/alcohols or sea sand on the bitten site
- If there is scratching, blistering or any other allergic features after sea bath seek immediate medical advice



Prevention

- Avoid sea bathing during the period of July to October. As during this period jellyfish are found often in the beach.
- Never eat unidentified sea fish.



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