Marine Envenomations / Injury

History
- Type of bite / sting
- Identification of organism
- Previous reaction to marine organism
- Immunocompromised
- Household pet

Signs and Symptoms
- Intense localized pain
- Increased oral secretions
- Nausea / vomiting
- Abdominal cramping
- Allergic reaction / anaphylaxis

Differential
- Jellyfish sting
- Sea Urchin sting
- Sting ray barb
- Coral sting
- Swimmers itch
- Cone Shell sting
- Fish bite
- Lion Fish sting

General Wound Care Procedure

IV Procedure if indicated

IO Procedure if indicated

If Needed
Carolinas Poison Control
1-800-222-1222

Age Appropriate
Hypotension / Shock Protocol
Trauma Protocol(s)

YES

Serious Injury / Hypotension

NO

Allergy / Anaphylaxis

YES

Age Appropriate
Allergy Protocol

NO

Age Appropriate
Pain Protocol

YES

Moderate / Severe Pain

Identification of Sea Creature

Jelly Fish
Anemone
Man-O-War

Immobilize injury
Lift away tentacles
Do Not brush or rub
Apply Vinegar Rinse
If available
Otherwise wash with clean seawater
DO NOT use fresh water or ice

Age Appropriate
Pain Control Protocol if indicated

Calcium Chloride (or Gluconate)
1 gm IV / IO
Peds: 20 mg/kg IV / IO
Over 3 minutes for severe muscle spasms

Notify Destination or Contact Medical Control

Sting Ray
Lion Fish
Urchin / Starfish

Immobilize injury
Remove Barb or Spine
If large Barb in thorax or abdomen stabilize object

Immerse in Hot Water
110 – 114 Degrees
If available

Age Appropriate
Pain Control Protocol if indicated

Calcium Chloride (or Gluconate)
1 gm IV / IO
Peds: 20 mg/kg IV / IO
Over 3 minutes for severe muscle spasms

Notify Destination or Contact Medical Control

Large Organism

Immobilize injury
Age Appropriate
Multiple Trauma Protocol if indicated
Extremity Trauma Protocol if indicated
Age Appropriate
Pain Control Protocol if indicated

NOTE
This protocol has been altered from the original 2012 NCCEP Protocol by the Johnston County EMS System Medical Director
Pearls

- Ensure your safety: Avoid the organism or fragments of the organism as they may impart further sting / injury.
- Patients can suffer cardiovascular collapse from both the venom and / or anaphylaxis even in seemingly minor envenomations.
- Sea creature stings and bites impart moderate to severe pain.
- Arrest the envenomation by inactivation of the venom as appropriate.
- Ensure good wound care, immobilization and pain control.