

**VASCULAR COMPROMISE FOLLOWING A
JELLYFISH STING – A CASE REPORT**

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Introduction:

Swimming off Penang's beaches can bring you a world of pain. There were few reported cases of jellyfish sting in Penang during early months of 2023. Jellyfish sting can cause local envenomation and systemic envenomation in humans. There are reported cases of finger or toe ischemia, but rare.

Report:

We report a case of a 7 years old boy who had an alleged sting by jellyfish over his left upper limb when he was playing along the shore in Balik Pulau, Penang. He presented with pain and progressive swelling of his entire left upper limb within hours. He was fully consciousness with stable vital signs upon attending in emergency department. The compartment of the swelling of left upper limb was soft. Neurovascular status was intact. He received IV hydrocortisone, IV piriton and vinegar dressing in emergency department. On day 3 of hospitalization, the pain subsided however the swelling did not improve, perhaps dusky discolouration of left thumb and index finger which extended to thenar eminence noted. Clinically, the vascular status was compromised with feeble radial pulse, low SpO₂ of all fingers (< 95%). Doppler showed monophasic radial and ulna pulses; otherwise triphasic brachial pulse. The ultrasound doppler showed small calibre of left radial and ulna arteries; otherwise large calibre of brachial pulse. He was started on IVI iloprost and IVI Heparin dilution, GTN patch and IV Augmentin. He was monitored closely in Paediatric high-dependency-unit. The swelling resolved completely and vascular status returned to normal condition after 4 days of the initiation of the treatment. He was then safely discharged on day 10 of admission.



Figure 1 (Day 1 post jellyfish sting)



Figure 2 (Day 8 post jellyfish sting)

Conclusion:

There are certain dangerous species of jellyfish sting can bring morbidity to humans. Victims are advised to seek immediate medical treatment if jellyfish sting happens.

References:

1. Burnett JW, Jellyfish envenomation syndromes updated. Emerg Med 1987; 16:1000.