

## GANGRENE OF LIMB POST JELLYFISH ENVENOMATION - MONITOR OR SURGERY?

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### INTRODUCTION:

Jellyfish stings are common occurrence in coastal regions, leading from mild irritation to life-threatening systemic reactions. Hereby we report of the rare complications of jellyfish sting developing ischemic limb injury and management.

### REPORTS:

An eleven-year-old boy presented with sharp pain and redness on his hand after having jellyfish sting on his right hand while swimming. The boy was initially brought to the emergency room and was discharged after treatment. However, worsening swelling and bluish discoloration were seen over left hand after two days, led to immediate revisit to hospital.

On examination, the right hand was swollen and noted to be pale, cold and insensate. The distal pulse was absent, with poor capillary refill and no detection from pulse oximetry for all fingers. Doppler ultrasound showed monophasic waveform at radial artery and ulnar artery. CT angiogram of right upper limb confirmed long segment non-opacification vasospasm of the radial and ulnar arteries.

Intravenous Iloprost infusion started for 1 week followed by heparin in conjunction with oral aspirin and poise lamp. The hand was elevated, and glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) patch at the wrist. Intravenous Augmentin was started as prophylaxis. Intravenous fluids were started, and pain relief was provided with intravenous analgesics.

During the treatment, more evident blisters and gangrene was seen especially the index finger. Decision made for close observation over amputation. Complications during treatment were hypertension and haematuria.

The patient was discharged from the hospital after 1 month with instructions for wound care and outpatient follow-up. During follow up, the patient's finger became pink, warm, but had hypersensitivity.



Fig. 1: Serial clinical photographs showing progression of left hand post jellyfish sting.

### CONCLUSION:

Prompt recognition and treatment in jellyfish stings are critical in preventing permanent ischemic injury and loss of limb. Closed supervision with medical treatment is recommended prior decision for surgery.

### REFERENCES:

1.Lo AH, Chan YC, Law Y, Cheng SW. Successful treatment of jellyfish sting-induced severe digital ischemia with intravenous iloprost infusion. J Vasc Surg Cases. 2016 Feb 24;2(1):31-33.