

SEA-LIFE ENVENOMATION

Indications:

For injuries sustained from the interaction with local sea-life, including Gafftop, Catfish, Stingrays and Jellyfish.

1. **Assess for ABC's**
2. **ALS assessment** – Adult or Pediatric
3. **Oxygen**
4. **Vital Signs and Pulse Oximetry**
5. **Obtain IV or Saline Lock access as needed**
6. **Treatment:**

If injury was sustained as the result of a **STINGRAY, CATFISH, GAFFTOP** or similar creature with a "barb", then:

- a) If available, the area should be soaked in the hottest water that the patient can tolerate. Instant heat packs can be used if no hot water is available.
- b) If the "barb" is still in place it should be stabilized as an impaled object, as attempting to remove the "barb" may cause severe tissue damage.
- c) The patient must be seen by an emergency department provider for x-ray assessment of the location of the barb, tetanus prophylaxis and antibiotics.
- d) Consider pain management as appropriate.

If the injury was sustained as the result of a **JELLYFISH**, then:

- a) Remove any visible tentacles with a gloved hand, remember they can still sting you!
- b) The area should then be covered with compresses of a 5% acetic acid solution (white vinegar).
- c) The area should then be scraped with a credit card or other similar type object to remove and remaining stinging cells.

Observe for signs of allergic reaction, as patients who have systemic reactions to insects (bees, ants, etc) may have a similar reaction to these types envenomations. Refer to the appropriate **ALLERGIC REACTION** SDO, as needed.

7. **Transport and Contact receiving hospital physician for further orders.**