ABSTRACT BOOK
ABSTRACTS

24TH WORLD CONGRESS
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EPIDEMIOLOGY

DERMATOLOGICAL MANIFESTATIONS CAUSED BY VENOMOUS FISH FROM EUROPE (OPEN ATLANTIC OCEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN COASTS).

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Background: Some of the earliest descriptions of venomous fish come from Europe. Greek-roman mythology tells us that Hercules lost a finger due to a sting of ray and Circe armed his son Telegonus with a spear that had a stingray stinger, with which he accidentally killed his father Odysseus (or Ulysses). Pliny the Elder (23-79 AD) in his "Natural History," stated that the stinger would be able to kill trees, pierce armor like an arrow and to corrode iron.

Observations: The author presents a series of eight injuries caused by European venomous fish. Stingrays envenomations (four) occurred in fishermen, through stingers located in the fish tail and covered by venomous epithelium. The most important species in the Atlantic and Mediterranean are Dasyatis pastinaca and Myliobatis aquila. There are bony fish in the Mediterranean Sea region capable of causing envenomations of variable severity. Among these are the weeverfish (Trachinus sp.), which victimize shallow-water bathers when they step on their venomous dorsal spicules (three injuries were observed in the Algarve, Portugal). Even more important are the rascasse or scorpionfish (Scorpaena sp.), whose venom has systemic actions and can cause pulmonary and cardiac manifestations, with life-threatening effects. The venom of all fish causes excruciating pain, initial inflammation (erythema and edema), pallor (ischemia) and late skin necrosis, which can lead to ulcers difficult to heal.

Key Messages: There is no specific treatment against these venoms and first aid uses symptomatic measures for the control of pain, as hot water. The late skin necrosis and the ulcers are complications in which must be known by dermatologists, since the treatments are included in our area of medical practice.

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