



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

INJURIES CAUSED BY AQUATIC ANIMALS AND CUTANEOUS REPERCUSSIONS.

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In the last years, the contact of humans with aquatic environments is increasing, for diverse reasons: aquatic sports, fishing, professional activities and others. These contacts cause injuries, since humans beings are not ready for the risks caused by aquatic animals. The author observed about two thousand cases of trauma and envenomations caused by aquatic animals in bathers and fishermen. Virtually all the injuries presented skin manifestations, fact that shows the importance of this kind of knowledge for the dermatologists. The most frequent group of animal associated with the injuries are the sea urchins (50%) which cause deep penetration and breaking of spines mainly in the plantar regions of the bathers. Other important group is the cnidarians (jellyfish, Portuguese man-of-war, anemones and corals) that present a venom with necrotic and neurotoxic effects, causing painful injuries (25% of the injuries in bathers) and the venomous fish, as catfish, stingrays, scorpionfish, toadfish and others, which the venom also causes skin necrosis, intense pain and complications such as stingers breaking in the wound and bacterial infections. The incidence of skin injuries caused by aquatic animals is near to 1 case for one thousand patients. The author will present the most common injuries, the first aid measures for control of the pain and other symptoms and the and the late follow-up of these patients, whose execution is most often performed by the dermatologist.

1. Haddad Jr, V. Medical Emergencies caused by aquatic animals: a zoological and clinical guide. Switzerland: Springer Publishers, 2016. 112 p.

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