Thailand Jellyfish Envenomation Guideline

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Jellyfish are venomous marine creatures which commonly causes envenomation throughout the world. Although most envenomations are not severe, some species may cause severe local as well as systemic effects, including deaths. With some differences among species, management approaches are presently based on conflicts and unclear evidences.

This topic covers background knowledge of jellyfish envenomation, including epidemiology, clinical manifestations, and scientific evidences on both prehospital and in-hospital managements. The treatment aims mainly to alleviate local effects, prevent further nematocyst discharges, and manage systemic effects. This topic also introduces the protocol of “jellyfish envenomation in Thailand”

The protocol of “Expert opinions on jellyfish envenomation, especially box jellyfish envenomation in Thailand” is developed by the group of experts to guide and conduct the same approach of envenomation management in Thailand.

The experts are from Ramathibodi Poison Center, Ministry of Public Health, Naval Medical Department, Faculty of Medicine Chiang Mai University, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources.

The protocol includes EMS/pre-hospital and Emergency Room/in-hospital care, which covers the stabilization of cardiopulmonary abnormalities, blockage of venom discharge, removal of tentacles, pain relief, wound care and treatment for systemic envenomation.

Keywords: Jellyfishes, Envenomation, Protocol, Thailand