

## **OP 11 White Scorpion sting in children - an experience from Teaching Hospital, Jaffna**

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**INTRODUCTION:** White scorpion (*Hottentotta tamulus*) is well known to cause life endangering effects following the venomous sting. Since the year 2009 the use of prozocin for the envenomation was noticed to be life saving. In the recent past with the clearing of unoccupied areas a surge in the bite incident was seen hence we did this survey was done in the paediatric population

**OBJECTIVES:** The objectives were to identify the factors affecting the outcome, nature of the scorpion sting, clinical profile of the sting and to assess the effect of treatment

**METHODS:** A retrospective study was done among the children admitted to the paediatric wards with a history of scorpion sting during the period of February 2012 to 2013. Data regarding the demographic pattern, clinical profile and the nature of sting were considered along with reports of the investigations and the treatment initiated which was collected from the patient's Bed Head Tickets. This data was compared with a data set that was collected in 2000-2003

**RESULTS:** A total of 24 children with a mean age of  $7.2 \pm 2.1$  years were considered. Mean time interval between the bite and admission to hospital was  $3.5 \pm 0.3$  hours. Common site (71%) of bite was the feet. The time of sting was day time in 80%. Four children were bitten during night time while asleep.

Pain and numbness were seen in 83% and profuse sweating (62.5%), Excessive salivation (50%), cold extremities (50%), tachycardia (42%) and hypertension (42%) were the other signs. Prazocin was administered in 15 patients and the rest were observed for 48 hours and discharged. All patients recovered without any sequelae and there were no deaths.

During the years 2000-2003, 24% of children died and average time of presentation to hospital was  $10.3 \pm 1.2$  hours. Prazocin was not used at that time. Survival after scorpion sting had a significant association with the time of admission (P value  $< 0.001$ ) and the use of Prozocin (P value  $< 0.001$ )

**CONCLUSION:** Close monitoring, early administration of Prozocin and timely admission to hospital prevents deaths in children due to scorpion sting.