Scorpion Sting Emergency Protocol

Using the Venomosity Rule of Thumb, the initial pain experienced by the patient, and the factors that influence the severity of a scorpion sting, we can predict the severity of future symptoms.

To better understand the expected severity of scorpion envenomation, take note that scorpions with small pincers and a thick tail are more venomous than scorpions with large pincers and a thin tail. Southern Africa is home to some of the world’s least venomous scorpion, as well as the 12th most venomous scorpion in the world!

Venomosity Rule of Thumb

- **Highly Venomous**
  - Thick tail, thin pincers. Intense pain at sting site. May be life threatening. Expect Class 2 and 3 Symptoms.

- **Mildly Venomous**

- **Weakly Venomous**
  - Thin tail, thick pincers. Pin prick-like symptoms with itching. Expect Class 1 Symptoms.

First Aid Techniques

**Class 1 and 2 Scorpion Envenomation**
- Calm the patient.
- Apply antiseptic to sting site.
- Make the patient comfortable.
- Transport the patient to professional medical assistance if unsure.

**Class 3 Scorpion Envenomation**
- Calm the patient.
- Closely monitor vital signs.
- Transport the patient to professional medical assistance.
- Antivenom may be required.

For Assistance contact the Poison Information Helpline on +27(0)21 931-6129.

Bites In The Night

Bites in the Night is a venomous animal employee engagement program that focuses on the 3 principles of working in areas inhabited by venomous animals. These 3 principles greatly reduce the chances of being bitten or stung by offering a unique understanding of venomous animals. Bites in the Night also promotes your environmental policy, reinforces your emergency protocols and empowers employees to react in a responsible way to venomous animals in the workplace. Presented by Jonathan Leeming.

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