

Introduction: Treatment for lionfish stings (*Pterios volitans*) has been widely spread through the Caribbean due to the invasion of this non native species. Treatment considerations have to be well specified to responders as accidents are more frequent and complications with treatment can present, although not life threatening can cause more harm than the original injury.

Method: We collected data from patients that had accidental envenomations by lion fish stings, from lionfish fishing tournaments where we provided medical care and patients admitted the emergency room of the General Hospital of Cozumel. Cases were noted over a time period of 4 years. Follow up of cases with complications were done at one, two weeks, one and two months.

Results: A total of 41 cases of patients with envenomation were attended, although no complications from the stings were reported on the 41 cases, we had 3 cases where the divers had burns from hot water treatment of different degrees. One of the patients developed a severe infection after burn and resuming scuba diving too early. This case needed medical and surgical treatment with reconstruction of first finger, with partial loss of function.



Discussion: Lionfish stings are common during lionfish tournaments and during breathhold diving spearfishing. Handling lionfish appears to be a commonplace where divers get stung, treatment with hot water is effective but has to be performed carefully, follow up and prophylaxis should be advised in all cases.

Conclusion: Many resources will suggest the water needs to be between 100°-115°F, but there really is no practical way to measure that or time to get water to the correct temperature in most instances. Immersing the wound in water that is as hot as the victim can stand without scalding or burning the skin is a usual recommendation, but patients with this kind of injuries are impaired to discern temperature properly. Responders and divers should be aware of this fact to avoid this kind of complications.

