

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



Medium tail, medium pincers. Wasp sting-like symptoms causing localised pain. Expect Class 1 and 2 Symptoms.

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 offer 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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