

ABSTRACT

Aims and objectives: To study the clinical spectrum and electrocardiographic changes in scorpion sting envenomation.

Study design: Prospective study

Methodology of study: 53 patients of scorpion sting envenomation who were admitted in thanjavur medical college and hospital were included in the study. The clinical spectrum, symptoms, signs, electrocardiogram, random blood glucose, complete hemogram, CK-MB were collected and analysed

Results: 53 patients were included in the study out of which 30 were male and 23 were female. There was no significant difference in clinical presentation with respect to age group and gender. Hand was the commonest site of sting. Local pain was the most common symptom followed by local swelling, paresthesias and redness. Tenderness at the sting site was the most common sign followed by tachycardia. Pulmonary edema was present in 3 patients. 18 patients had grade 3 envenomation and all those 18 patients had significant ECG changes and serum CK-MB was elevated in all these 18 patients. Sinus tachycardia was the most common ECG abnormality.

Conclusion: In this study eighteen out of 53 cases had ECG changes. Three of the patients presented with pulmonary edema. There was no mortality due to scorpion sting in the study period. There was significant correlation between the time delay and severity of envenomation. This indicates a need for immediate medical care following scorpion sting. Following this study it is seen that patients were stung by the scorpions due to their lack of knowledge about scorpions and due to their carelessness, like putting their hands in to scorpion homes.

Follow up studies are required to assess the long term complications of scorpion stings⁵¹

Key words: scorpion sting, Tenderness at the sting site, tachycardia, CK-MB