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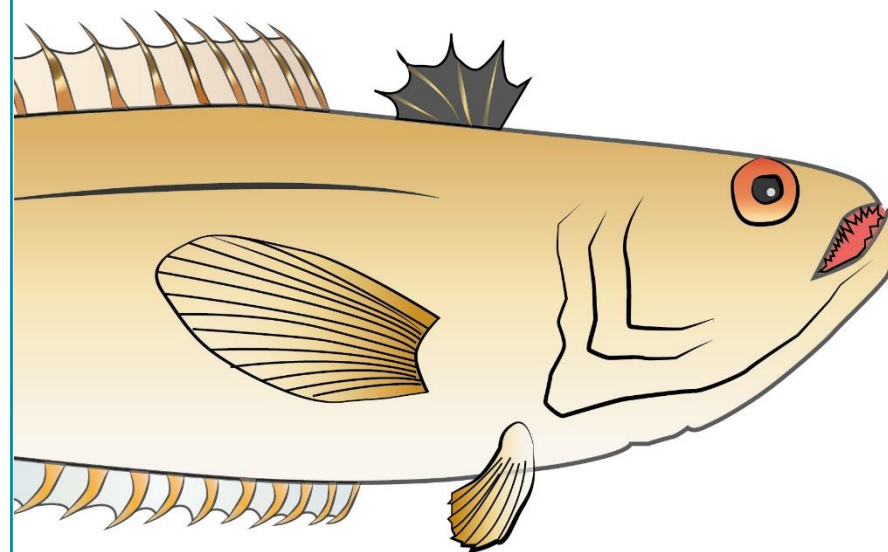
www.holbaeksygehus.dk/afdelinger/akutafdeling

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ENG

Stung by a weever fish

Holbæk Sygehus, Akutafdelingen



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What is a weever fish?

A weever fish (*Trachinus draco*) is a small fish with a poisonous spine in its fin, which lives along the Danish coasts. The weever fish is the most venomous fish in the Nordic region. The venom of the weever fish, located in its dorsal fin, is lethal to small fish but can also be dangerous for children and elderly people.

Weever fish stings

Weever fish stings most commonly occur during the bathing season. The weever fish buries itself in the sand, leaving only its dorsal fin protruding, which unfortunate bathers may accidentally step on and get stung. It also happens that fishermen are stung by it.

Symptoms

- Immediate feeling of intense pain around the site of the sting
- Swelling that spreads to the entire affected body part
- Sometimes, an allergic reaction (dizziness, breathing difficulty, bluish skin discoloration, profuse sweating, convulsions, possible fainting)

If signs of an allergic reaction, CALL 112.

Treatment

The venom of the Weever fish is inactivated by heat. Therefore, immerse the affected area in as hot water as can be tolerated for 15-30 minutes. Be aware that water above 42 degrees Celsius can cause burns with prolonged contact! Keep the affected body part still, e.g., put the arm in a sling, elevate the leg etc.

If symptoms persist after the described treatment, contact the "Skadetelefonen" (Emergency Telephone) at phone number 1818, your own doctor, or an on-call doctor.

Tetanus vaccination

A tetanus vaccination is effective for 10 years. If you have received a vaccination against tetanus, you can check on www.sundhed.dk if it is still valid. A new tetanus vaccination can cause soreness in the muscle for 2-4 days after the injection.

Questions

You are welcome to contact the "Skadetelefonen" (Emergency Telephone) at phone number 1818 or your own doctor if you have any doubts or questions regarding the treatment.