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Pelagia Noctiluca jellyfish: can lesions and symptoms be prevented?

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Objective: Pelagia Noctiluca jellyfish is a very common jellyfish on European and Mediterranean costs. It can induce small to severe burns and toxicity. Modulation of pH could prevent more nemastocysts discharge and relieve symptoms.

Methods: The study was performed on Mediterranean beaches with rescuers under the authorization of the French Ministry of Interior. The lesion was evaluated on size, general aspect, redness, pain and edema. A hypertonic amphoteric solution was used for decontamination regardless the delay.

Results: 64 exposures to Pelagia Noctiluca jellyfish were involved. 78% are below 30 years old, 27 are females and 37 are males. 83% of the exposures are small ones (less than 50 cm^2). 78% of the exposures were treated within the 40 minutes. Decontamination seemed to be generally positive for 80% of the victims. Pain decreased for 97% of the cases with a complete relief for 58% and no effect for 3%. Washing allows decreasing edema for 86 % of cases, had minor effect for 8% and had no effect for 6%.

Conclusion: Decontamination with hypertonic amphoteric solution can potentially help to prevent development of lesions and symptoms due to contact with Pelagia Noctiluca jellyfish.