



### Stingray - A toxic creature with a traumatic sting

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**Objective:** A review of stingray injuries and suggest a general approach to its management.

**Case Report:** Stingrays are found in open waters and are also kept as exhibits in many aquariums throughout the world. They are generally noted to be non-aggressive creatures by nature but can inflict injury with its spine if provoked. We present a case of a 62-year-old diver who was caring for his stingrays in an aquarium when he was stung in the chest by one of his charges. He collapsed immediately at scene and bystander CPR was promptly instituted. He was rapidly evacuated to the nearest Emergency Department (ED) where it was noted that he was in cardiac arrest. A single puncture wound was noted over the right second intercostal space. Trauma surgeons were activated promptly while CPR was continued, airway secured and fluid resuscitation started. At emergency department thoracotomy was done; but despite aggressive resuscitation, patient succumbed to his injuries. An autopsy done revealed transection of the aorta and an impaled sting.

**Conclusion:** Most of the minor injuries caused by stingray can be managed by supportive treatment. However, an integrated trauma system, with rapid transport, initial stabilization and expeditious referral to trauma team for definitive care is necessary for the management of penetrating thoracic injuries.