REVERSAL OF CLINICAL SIGNS OF SCORPION ENVENOMATION AFTER TREATMENT WITH ANTISERA IN FOUR CITIES OF KHUZESTAN PROVINCE (SOUTH-WESTERN IRAN)

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ABSTRACT: Scorpion sting syndrome is a medical problem that represents a real threat in many parts of the world including Iran. Annually thousands are stung by scorpions in Khuzestan province in south-western part of Iran. The present study aims to assess the risk of scorpion stings together with the efficacy of scorpion antivenom therapy, reversal of clinical symptoms and to clarify the epidemiological features of scorpion stings in this province. Khuzestan province in south-western part of Iran has a wide distribution of scorpion. more than 19 species and subspecies of scorpions are present in this province. Because of this more than 70% of manufactured polyvalent antiserum by Razi vaccine and serum research institute are used in this province. In order to study clinical manifestation of scorpion envenomation before and after treatment with polyvalent antiserum, a questionary was distributed in emergency rooms of four medical centers in 4 cities including Ahvaz, Izeh, Ramhormoz and Masjedsoleiman. The questionnaire contained some personal question like sex, age, sting location in the body and clinical signs before and after injection of antiserum, history of basic illnesses and type of treatment used for the patients.

Totally 2675 envenomed patients were studied in 2 years, who were stung by 3 species of scorpion called Hemiscorpius lepturus from Hemiscorpionidae family and Androctonus crassicauda and Mesobuthus eupeus from Buthidae family. 728 (27.2%) patients were stung by Hemiscorpius lepturus and 706 (26.4%) by Androctonus crassicauda and 676 (25.3%) by Mesobuthus eupeus from Buthidae family and 565 (21.1%) did not observe the scorpion. Almost all of the envenomed patients with local symptoms of envenomation recovered after polyvalent scorpion antisera iv injection.

Key words: Clinical sign, envenomation, antisera, Hemiscorpius lepturus, Mesobuthus eupeus, Androctonus crassicauda, Iran, scorpion, Khuzestan.