

## **MARINE STINGS**

### **TREATMENT FOR MARINE STINGS**

**Your aims are:**

- **To reassure the casualty.**
  - **To inactivate stinging cells before they release their venom, and neutralize any free venom.**
  - **To relieve pain and discomfort.**
- 1. Pour alcohol (any alcoholic drink will do) or household vinegar over the injury for a few minutes to incapacitate stinging cells that have not yet fired.**
  - 2. Apply a past of equal parts of sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) and water to the wound.**
  - 3. Dust a dry powder over the skin around the injury to make remaining cells stick together. Talcum powder will suffice – better still is meat tenderizer, used in barbecue cooking; papain, one of its ingredients, can inactivate venom.**

**IF the injuries are severe, or there is a serious generalized reaction, dial 112 for an ambulance. If the casualty is having difficulty breathing, she may be in anaphylactic shock.**

## **TREATMENT FOR MARINE PUNCTURE WOUNDS**

**Your aims are:**

- **To inactivate the venom.**
  - **To obtain medical aid.**
- 1. Put the injured part in water as hot as the casualty can bear for at least 30 minutes. Top up the water as it cools, being careful not to scald the casualty.**
  - 2. Take or send the casualty to hospital, where spines remaining in the skin may have to be removed.**