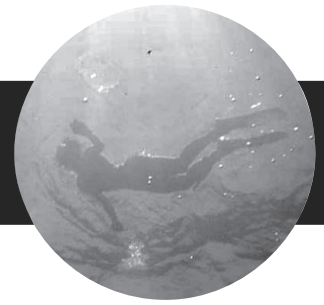


24 – BITE, SNORKELING

FLORIDA



THE STORY:

A couple diving off the Florida Keys split up in different directions fishing and periodically returned their catch to a boat they had anchored approx. 45 min. from the nearest port. On a return trip, the woman noticed her companion calling for help and holding his leg while swimming back to the boat. Her companion informed her that he had been bitten on his last circuit.

The Pt stated he had been bitten by a 4' (1.2m) barracuda and complained of pain in his lower right leg. The Pt stated an allergy to nuts, no regular

medications, no pertinent history, stated he had last eaten at 1200hrs., and was emphatic that he was bitten once by what he could positively identify as a barracuda. On exam at 1335hrs.: the 25 y/o male was in pain from the bite to his leg. The divers noted an 8" (20cm) long tearing bite wound to the Pt's right anterior tibia and lateral calf muscle. The wound appeared free of major debris and bleeding was controlled effectively by a towel. Pt's Pulse: 96, Resp.: 20, Skin: pale, cool, Pt was alert and anxious.

Put the appropriate information from the story above into the correct spaces provided in the SOAP note. Develop an Assessment for 1335hrs. with Anticipated Problems and an appropriate Treatment Plan.

At 1430, the divers arrived in port for transfer to an ambulance and a 45-minute road trip to the nearest hospital. The Pt had maintained effective direct

pressure on the wound during the trip to port with bleeding controlled and the Pt alert and calm.

QUESTIONS

1. How would you realistically manage this injury if evacuation was prolonged for days?
2. What signs and symptoms would you expect to encounter if this wound became locally infected? How would you know the infection had become systemic?

ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT PLAN

A = Assessment (Problem List)	A' = Anticipated Problems	P = Treatment Plan
1335		
high risk bite wound to R leg	bleeding / infection	direct pressure / thorough irrigation / dress / bandage
ASR	cont. ASR	calm Pt
1430		
high risk wound	infection	EVAC. to hospital

NOTES

The patient was an experienced diver and stated that he was positive he was bitten by a barracuda.

What Actually Happened Next ...

In the hospital it was discovered that the Pt's tendon was severed in three places within the bite area. An extensive tendon repair was conducted as well as a debridement of the injured leg in an attempt to discourage subsequent infection. The Pt made a complete recovery and continues to thrill audiences with his story in the pub to this day.
