A 5-year-old previously healthy male child was brought to the paediatric emergency department two hours after sting/contact with a marine animal (most likely a jellyfish) while playing on the beach without a swimsuit. Upon admission, he was complaining of pain, apyretic, haemodynamically stable, with exuberant oedema and an erythematous-violaceous area with bullous lesions with serous fluid on the body of the penis (Figs. 1 and 2). No oliguria was present. No laboratory abnormalities were found.

After hospitalisation, he underwent therapy with analgesics, oil-in-water emulsion with topical triethanolamine and hydrocortisone and clemastine, with progressive improvement. On the second day, there was a spontaneous rupture of phlyctaenae and, as a superinfection was presumed, he was started on amoxicillin and clavulanic acid. The patient was discharged on the third day with symptomatic therapy.

The Cnidaria phylum is a group of aquatic animals that include medusas, jellyfish and men-of-war. This phylum displays a heterogeneous worldwide distribution. The sting by a cnidarian has been a growing concern, particularly in the summer season, and there seems to be an increase in the number of these organisms related to climate change. In Portugal, the most frequent species are the Portuguese men-of-war (Physalia physalis, with 40% of sightings), Catostylus tagi, Chrysaora hysoscella and Pelagia noctiluca with interregional variations. The majority are harmless, only causing skin reactions (erythema and oedema or delayed hypersensitivity reaction in the following weeks). Some species may cause major systemic reactions such as an anaphylactic shock. It is important to recognise the existing species in the region and to raise awareness among professionals and the general population.

There seems to be consensus on the use of analgesics, saline water and hot water at 42 °C-45 °C for symptomatic relief and inhibition of cnidocytes. In case of a sting by a Portuguese man-of-war, the application of 4%-6% acetic acid has proved to be effective. In the sting caused by any species, visible tentacles should be removed. The use of immersion in cold fresh water, urine or chemicals and friction of the lesions are not recommended.

**Keywords**: Bites and Stings/therapy; Child, Preschool; Cnidaria/pathogenicity; Cnidarian Venoms/adverse effects; Penile Diseases/diagnosis
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Confidentiality of data
The authors declare that they have followed the protocols of their work centre on the publication of patient data.

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