

Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Thank you for your kind letter on September 26 and for the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Research progress on the marine biological injuries and their medical management" (Manuscript No: 78425). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for improving our paper. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval.

Here below is our description on revision based on the reviewers' comments.

**Reviewers' comments:**

Reviewer #1: The stated aim of this review was to classify marine biological injuries, describe injury characteristics from marine microbial infection, marine animal claw stab injury, and marine animal bites, and summarize the prevention and treatment of major marine biological injuries in Chinese sea areas. On the contrary, the title implies (and the conclusion supports this) that the review intended to focus on research that has been and is currently underway on the extent of marine biological injuries and treatment strategies. However, it does not state that it is limited to any geographical area. Unfortunately, the review does not accomplish this objective as it focuses principally on classification and descriptions of current treatment options. The review is not systematically conducted or presented. It seems more like a textbook of marine injuries rather than a summary of current research projects/activities. Little is presented on the disease burden or epidemiology (geographical distribution, morbidity, mortality, etc.). It would be more interesting to explain how important/relevant this topic is to the Chinese Navy (incidence and prevalence rates), what is being done to investigate these injuries, and what promising prevention or treatment strategies are being investigated. If no research is being done, then perhaps the authors can

attempt to explain the reasons why or propose a realistic way to overcome this or at least propose a research agenda with priorities. A more structured format for presenting the various types of injuries, etc. would be helpful. The English writing is poor and requires major revisions. In its current state, the paper is not publishable.

A: Thank you for your comments. Firstly, we have revised the title of our paper to “Marine biological injuries and their medical management: A narrative review” according to your comments. Secondly, we have revised some contents in our introduction according to the suggestion as follows: “This article was written in response to the greater need for a reference on the prevention and treatment of these injuries for coastal residents, naval officers, and soldiers who may be involved in the accelerated implementation of China's marine development strategy in their daily life and training. For this article, we reviewed various academic papers written in the past 30 years since 1993, classified them according to the types of marine biological injuries mentioned, described the characteristics of the injuries and the key points of prevention and treatment, and put forward future research directions and suggestions for existing problems”. Finally, we have realized English writing is poor, and we have sent our revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company to polish the manuscript, and have uploaded a new language certificate along with our revised manuscript.

Reviewer #2: 1. The title should mention the review type. E.g., narrative review. 2. The authors should improve the abstract. In the majority of the indexations, only the abstract is provided. Include more specific information. Describe the main findings. Describe methodology. 3. Revise the keywords section. Search for descriptors on this website: <https://decs.bvsalud.org/I/homepagei.htm> 4. Provide a reference for: “Marine biological injuries can be roughly divided into marine microbial infection ....” 5. A section regarding the methodology of the present

manuscript should be provided. 6. Table 1 is interesting to provide the total number of reports throughout the time. 7. There are some mistypings throughout the manuscript. E.g., letters and spaces. 8. There are some grammatical errors throughout the manuscript. Could the authors provide a video abstract? Could the authors provide examples (photos, figures) of the different types of injuries? Could the authors provide a table with the different types of injury, epidemiology, clinical tips, and management?

1. The title should mention the review type. E.g., narrative review.

A: We have modified the title according to the suggestions as follows: Marine biological injuries and their medical management: A narrative review.

2. The authors should improve the abstract. In the majority of the indexations, only the abstract is provided. Include more specific information. Describe the main findings. Describe methodology.

A: We have revised our manuscript according to the suggestion and improved the abstract as follows: "The marine environment may be dangerous everywhere, especially the harm caused by the contact between marine organisms and human body. Contact includes different ways, such as stings, bites, food or wound, some of which even endanger life. Characteristics of the common marine biological injuries are summarized, major marine organisms causing damage in China and the prevention and treatment methods are discussed."

3. Revise the keywords section. Search for descriptors on this website: <https://decs.bvsalud.org/I/homepagei.htm>.

A: We have modified the keywords according to the suggestion as follows: "Marine organism; Injury and wounds; Prevention; Treatment".

4. Provide a reference for: "Marine biological injuries can be roughly divided

into marine microbial infection ....”

A: We have provided a reference according to the suggestion as follows:

**Zhang Z**, Li Y, Nie F, Zhang LM. Prevention and treatment of major fatal marine biological injuries. Proceedings of the first national academic conference of young maritime medical workers. **2010**:46-49

5. A section regarding the methodology of the present manuscript should be provided.

A: We have introduced the methodology section in the “THE BASIC SITUATION OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL INJURIES RESEARCH” section according to the suggestion.

6. Table 1 is interesting to provide the total number of reports throughout the time.

A: Thank you for your positive comments.

7. There are some mistypings throughout the manuscript. E.g., letters and spaces.

A: We thank the reviewer’s careful review, and have revised the manuscript word by word according to your comments.

8. There are some grammatical errors throughout the manuscript. Could the authors provide a video abstract? Could the authors provide examples (photos, figures) of the different types of injuries? Could the authors provide a table with the different types of injury, epidemiology, clinical tips, and management?

A: We have revised the grammar according to the suggestion, and have sent our revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company to polish the manuscript. We have collected clinical data as much as possible in the preliminary work and summarized them into the article. Some clinical

tips, and management strategies have provided in table 2.

Reviewer #3: Paper presents a review on an important topic related to marine based biological injuries. I think paper is of general interest to the community, however, as a review paper I suggest more extensive review (number of references, i.e., 34, included in this study is insufficient for review). I suggest reviewer to enhance the review to account for more studies (at least 80 or more references should be given) and provide in deep review.

A: Thank you for your comments. We have supplemented more studies in our manuscript according to your comments, and the number of references has increased to 82.

Thank the reviewers and the editors again for the effort in shaping our manuscript.

Best Regards

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