

Jellyfish venom is poison as medicine

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Yao-Hua Law wrote an article entitled “Stopping the sting” (1). We can be paralyzed by the jellyfish sting while some jellyfish venoms can cause death because of the heart seizure. However, Hyunkyung Lee et al. reported that jellyfish venoms are considered as an interesting resource in the development of novel drugs for treating various diseases (2). Cobra venom has been used to treat joint pain, inflammation, and arthritis in Ayurveda, an Indian traditional medicine (2,3). Bee venom has been used to treat chronic inflammation (rheumatoid arthritis), skin disease (acne and itch), and pain relief for thousands of years (2,4). Venom has duality of poison and medicine.

References:

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4. Chang, Y. H. & Bliven, M. L. Anti-arthritic effect of bee venom. *Agents Actions* **9**, 205–211 (1979)