

- Abstract -

Sciatic Nerve Injury Caused by Biting of a Centipede - A Case Report -

**Jeong-Hwan Seo, M.D., Kwang-Sok Kim, M.D.,
Seong-Hee Park, M.D., Myoung-Hwan Ko, M.D**

*Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Research Institute of Clinical Medicine,
Chonbuk National University Medical School*

Objectives: There are few medical reports about the biting injury by centipede either within or outside of Korea. The bite injury usually causes localized edema and pain, renal failure or shock. However there has been no report of nerve injury caused by centipede. We report one case of sciatic nerve injury caused by a centipede.

Methods: A 54-year old healthy man visited our hospital due to motor and sensory impairments of right lower extremity one month after bite by a centipede. On physical examination, there were weakness of right knee flexor, ankle dorsiflexor and plantarflexor as well as toe flexor and extensor muscles. Electrodiagnostic study revealed incomplete sciatic nerve lesion involving tibial and peroneal component around the bite site. Comprehensive rehabilitation treatment including oral steroid, strengthening exercises and electrical stimulation therapy was administered on daily basis. One month after treatment, physical examination revealed increased muscle strength (good grade) of all weakened muscles. Electrodiagnostic study showed improvement, too. The centipede species was identified as *Scolopendra subspinipes multilans*.

Conclusion: Nerve injury caused by centipede has not been reported, yet. We report a case of sciatic nerve injury caused by a centipede and it had good prognosis.

Key Words: Sciatic nerve, Nerve injury, Centipede

가

Address reprint requests to **Jeong-Hwan Seo, M.D.**

Department Rehabilitation Medicine, Chonbuk National University Medical School

#634-18 Keumam-dong, Dukjin-ku, Chonju 561-756, Korea

TEL : 82-63-250-1810, FAX : 82-63-254-4145, E-mail : vivaseo@moak.chonbuk.ac.kr

Table 1. Results of Nerve Conduction Study After Biting of Centipede

	After 1 Month	After 2 Months
Tibial Nerve		
Latency (ms)	9.0	4.9
Amplitude (mV)	12.5	12.8
Peroneal Nerve		
Latency (ms)	4.6	3.8
Amplitude (mV)	3.0	4.3
Superficial Peroneal Nerve		
Latency (ms)	3.3	2.9
Amplitude (μ V)	6.3	12.4
Sural Nerve		
Latency (ms)	3.7	2.8
Amplitude (μ V)	6.8	14.2

가
 5.
 (Scolopendromorpha)
 (Scolopendridae)
 (Scolopendra subspinipes multilans)
 (Fig. 1).
 (11 ~ 15 cm), 가
 1. 21 , 가
 3. ,
 가 , , (jineol)
 3, 8-dihydroxyquinoline⁵ 8-
 hydroxy-1H-2-benzopyran-1-one . 가
 가 .
 5-hydroxytryptamine, histamine,
 lipids, polysaccharides proteinase ester-
 sase . 가 가
 Scolopendra subspinipes (toxin
 S) 가
 가 2. Scolopendra 가
 morsitans 가
 3. 가 2.3 cm,
 Maria (1999) 가 3.8 cm 가
 가 가 가

가

가

1. Dictionary of Chinese Crude Drugs. Chiang Su New Medical College, Shanghai Scientific Technologic, ed.: 1997, 2473-2475

2. Gomes A, Datta A, Sarangi B, Kar PK, Lahiri SC: Isolation, purification and pharmacodynamics of a toxin from the venom of the centipede *Scolopendra subspinipes dehaani*. Brandt. Indian J Exp Biol 1983; 21: 203-207
3. Kim K, Kim H, Park K, Cho K: Decision of structures of neo-antimicrobial materials isolated from *Scolopendra subspinipes*. J Korean Chem Soc 1998; 42: 236-239
4. Mohamed AH, Zaid E, El-Beih NM, Abd Ell-Aal A: Effects of an extract from centipede *Scolopendra morsitans* on intestine, uterus and heart contractions and on blood glucose and liver and muscle glycogen levels. Toxicon 1980; 18: 581-591
5. Moon SS, Cho N, Shin J, Seo Y, Lee CO, Choi SU: Jineol, a cytotoxic alkaloid from the Centipede *Scolopendra subspinipes*. J Nat Prod 1996; 59: 777-779
6. Stankiewicz M, Hamon A, Benkhalifa R, Kadziela W, Hue B, Lucas S et al: Effects of a centipede venom fraction on insect nervous system, a native *Xenopus* oocyte receptor and on an expressed *Drosophila* muscarinic receptor. Toxicon 1999; 30: 1431-1445