

NEW AUSTRALIAN CLINICAL TRIAL FOR IRUKANDJI JELLYFISH STING ANTIDOTE

The Australian pharmaceutical company Phebra is supporting a new clinical trial to test the efficacy of Magnesium Sulphate as an antidote for Irukandji Syndrome (IS), the acute pain caused by certain jellyfish stings.

The jellyfish responsible for IS are found in Australia's warm, tropical waters, from Exmouth in Western Australia, to Moreton Bay, in south-east Queensland.

Every year, there are up to 60 cases of IS, with victims suffering throbbing pain, headache, sweating, hypertension and breathing difficulties. There have been two confirmed deaths attributed to this jellyfish in Australia.

Phebra's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Mal Eutick, said Phebra will be working in conjunction with Drs Jeremy Furyk and Clinton Gibbs and collaborators from around north Queensland to support the trial in emergency departments at hospitals in Cairns, Townsville, Proserpine and Mackay.

"As an Australian health manufacturer, Phebra is pleased to be supplying the Magnesium Sulphate infusions as well as the placebo to be used in this trial," Dr Eutick said.

"The Group has planned a detailed and controlled, multi-centre trial, which should provide clinicians with the data needed to understand the efficacy of Magnesium Sulphate, as an antidote for IS, in areas where jellyfish stings are most prevalent in the summer months."

Dr Eutick said Phebra continued to support the need for Australian antidotes and feels that this demonstrates the value of having supportive Australian based manufacturers who have a desire to support the Australian community and its needs.

Dr Eutick said the IS trial is scheduled to commence next year and could be extended to health settings in Darwin and Broome. The research is supported by a grant from the Queensland Emergency Medicine Research Foundation (QEMRF), and involves the collaboration of investigators from Queensland Health, Queensland Ambulance Service and Careflight Medical, Retrieval Services.

About Phebra

Phebra is an Australian based specialty pharmaceutical company which develops, manufactures and markets critical medicines in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Canada and parts of Europe.

At Phebra, we create critical medicines that save and improve lives.