

A Procedure for Using a Sedative to Perform a Surgical Operation on a Sand Tiger Shark

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As large shark displays have become popular at public aquariums throughout the world, the Sand Tiger shark, *Carcharias taurus*, has become one of the most popular display animals. Despite the popularity of this large shark, no husbandry procedure using a sedative to perform a surgical operation has been reported. At the Marine World Umino-nakamichi Aquarium, a female Sand Tiger shark (TL2.5m, BW140kg) had developed an ulcer (5cm x 5cm) at the inside of the labial fold, and hemorrhaging has been observed. To remove the ulcer, the shark was sedated then captured on February 25th, 2001. The shark received an intramuscular injection of 15ml Domitor from a scuba diver at the base of the first dorsal fin. The shark stopped swimming half an hour after the sedative was injected, then it was captured safely and removed from the display tank to the treatment container(5m x 2m x 1m,10,000L). The shark's upper jaw was pulled up with a large towel and the lower jaw was fixed on the bottom by a belt attached to the bottom of the container. The ulcer was removed surgically then burned by YAKIGOTE to stop bleeding. After the surgery, the shark received an intramuscular injection of 15ml Antisedan, into the base of the first dorsal fin, then returned to the display tank. The shark resumed swimming without support five minutes after release into the display tank. The entire procedure took 25 minutes. The shark has recovered from surgery completely, and the wound healed without recurrence.