

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2002.06.09.a](#)

DATE: Sunday June 9, 2002

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean beyond the guarded area at the south end of the public beach at Hutchinson Island, Martin County, about 39 miles north of West Palm Beach.

NAME: Corey Brooks

DESCRIPTION: The swimmer is a 10-year-old male from Port St. Lucie.



Corey Brooks

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was sunny.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 29% of the Moon's visible disk illuminated. New Moon, June 10, 2002.

SEA CONDITIONS: There were two-foot seas.

ENVIRONMENT: Swimmers reported seeing bait fish in the water.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 yards

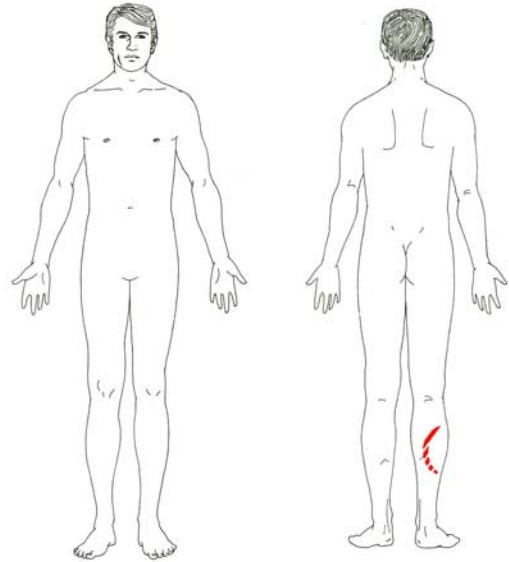
DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: "Waist-deep"

TIME: 13h00

NARRATIVE: Corey was at the beach with family friends and was swimming in the surf with more than 20 other children when he felt what he thought was someone tugging on his right leg. There was very little pain, he said. Then he saw a shark had bitten him and he ran for help.

INJURY: The boy had a 12- to 14-inch laceration in his right calf. According to rescuers, the gash went right to the bone, but it missed the tendons, ligaments and a major artery .

FIRST AID: Lifeguards called everyone from the water and stabilized the boy. Corey was conscious and "pretty calm" but in pain, according to Martin County Fire Rescue firefighter/paramedic T.J. Guzzi and fire medic Doug Young.



TREATMENT: Lifestar emergency services helicopter landed on A1A, adjacent to the beach area, at 13h15 and flew Corey to St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach. He underwent surgery the same evening. His injury required more than 100 stitches to repair.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: ESPN; Stuart News/Port St. Lucie News (FL) June 10 and 11, 2002; Orlando Sentinel, June 12, 2002, page B2

