Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

In our paper 'Urinary problems in decompression sickness' (Paraplegia 1986, 24:20–25) we mentioned:

'The Kalymnian sponge drivers have a traditional test for decompression disease. Just after emerging from the water they try to pass urine and they repeat it 30 minutes later'.

We interviewed 15 ex sponge drivers who are now paraplegic due to decompression disease. All of them had applied the 'test' just before or after emerging from the water. The test was found positive in 9 of them while in 6 it was doubtful. Ignoring this warning they emerged from the water and they all developed decompression disease.

We wish to name this test 'The Kalymnian test' and we would also like to know about the international experience on this sign.

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