



# The types, treatments and care of burns

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# Presenter



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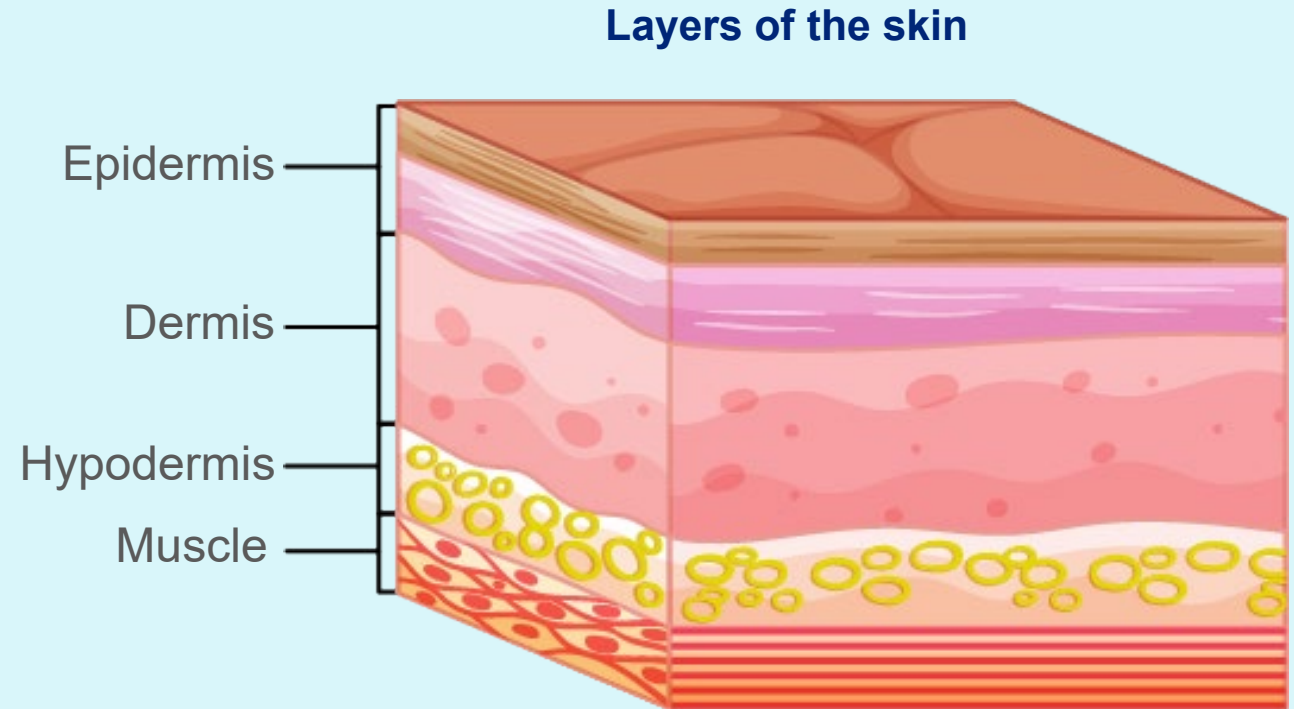
# Agenda

- 1 Overview of skin and burns
- 2 Evaluation and assessment
- 3 Factors for assessing and treating burns
- 4 Challenges and prevention

# Overview of skin and burns

# Skin

Skin is the largest organ of the body  
16% of total body weight



# Incidence of burns

4<sup>th</sup> leading cause  
of death  
due to trauma

2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause  
of death  
in children ages 1-4



Worldwide  
300,000 die annually



486,000 receive  
medical treatment  
in U.S.



40,000  
hospitalizations



3,275 deaths/year in  
the US burns or  
complications



Direct costs  
estimated at \$1 billion

## Most common burn types



**Thermal 86%**

- Steam, flame, flash
- Risks - children, males (occupation related)
- Alcohol use
- Lack of smoke detectors



**Electrical 4%**



**Chemical 3%**



# Burns in the work place

10-45 %  
of all burns

>5,000 burn injuries  
in U.S. caused by  
work-related fires and  
explosions each year <sup>1</sup>

~10% of fatalities  
related to burns  
(Electrical most common)<sup>2</sup>

Compared to non-work-related burn patients...

- Fewer co-morbidities
- Decreased TBSA burns
- Decreased risk of inhalation injury
- Shorter time of intensive care treatment
- Shorter lengths of hospital stay
- Lower treatment cost

<sup>1</sup> OSHA

<sup>2</sup> National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries



## Highest risk group

Young male worker

## High-risk occupations

Firefighting

Food processing

Construction

# Evaluation and assessment

## On-site evaluation

- Stop the burning process
- Remove all burned clothes  
Hot clothing may cause a deeper injury. If clothing sticks to the skin, cut or tear around it.
- Pour cool water over burned areas.  
3 to 5 minutes (30 to 40 minutes for a chemical burn)
- Do not pack the burned areas in ice  
May cause more damage and hypothermia
- Remove all jewelry, belts, and tight clothing  
Burned areas will swell immediately. If the victim's neck is burned, make sure nothing is around it.
- Do not apply ointments or other home remedies  
These may cause serious infections.
- Cover burns with a clean, dry bandage or sheet
- Keep the victim warm
- Seek medical attention immediately



# Minor burns: Follow the “Cs”

## Cooling

Small areas of burn can be cooled with tap water or saline solution to prevent progression of burning and to reduce pain.

## Cleaning

- Mild soap and water or mild antibacterial wash.
- Debate continues over the best treatment for blisters.
- Large blisters are debrided while small blisters and blisters involving the palms or soles are left intact.

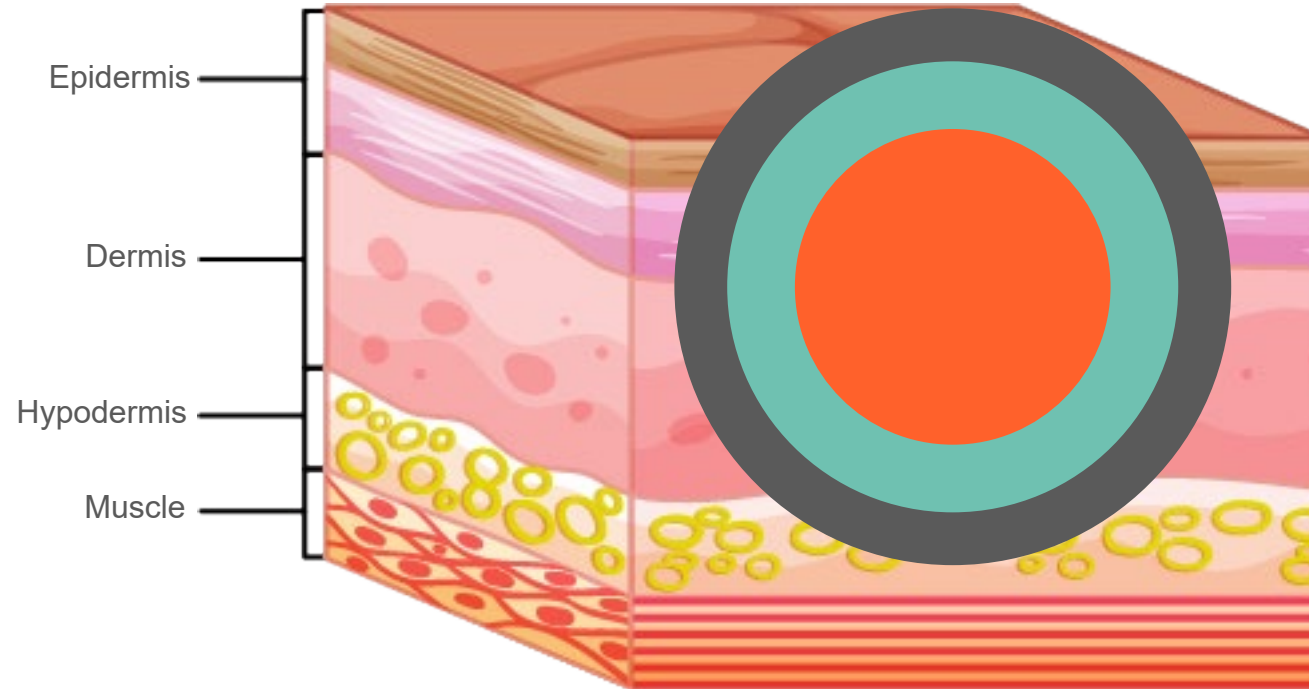
## Covering

Topical antibiotic ointments or cream with absorbent dressing or specialized burn dressing materials are commonly used.

## Comfort

- Over-the-counter pain medications or prescription pain medications when needed.
- Splints can provide support and comfort for certain burned areas.

# Assessment: Three zones Jackson's model



## Zone of coagulation

Initial area of injury and cell death

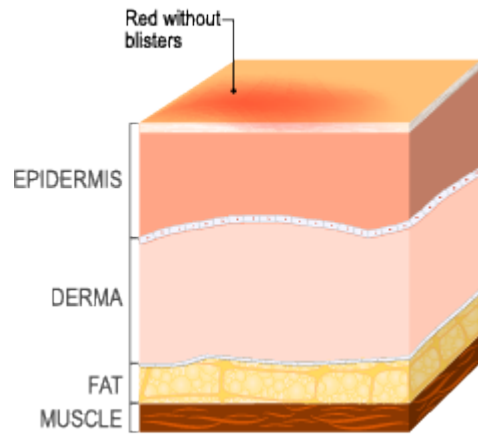
## Zone of stasis

- Area at risk with inflammation and low perfusion
- Frequently area of damage increases into this zone over the first 48 hours

## Zone of hyperemia

- Increased area of perfusion
- Red areas surrounding burn

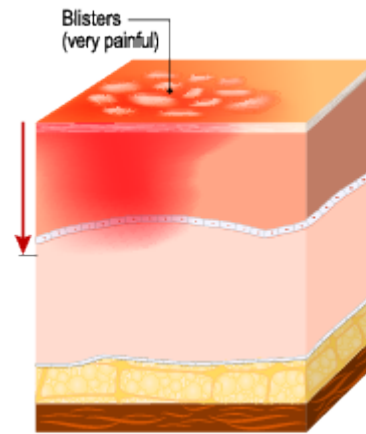
# Burn classification



## 1st degree

- Superficial
- Warm, painful, red, soft
- Usually do not blister
- Will blanch when touched

Example: Sunburn  
Heals within days

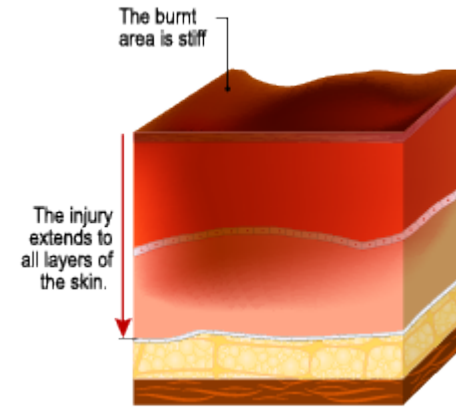


## 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree

- Partial thickness
- Very painful, red
- Blistered, moist, soft
- Will blanch when touched

Examples: Hot surfaces or liquids

- Heals usually from both bottom up and outside in
- Generally heals in 2-3 weeks

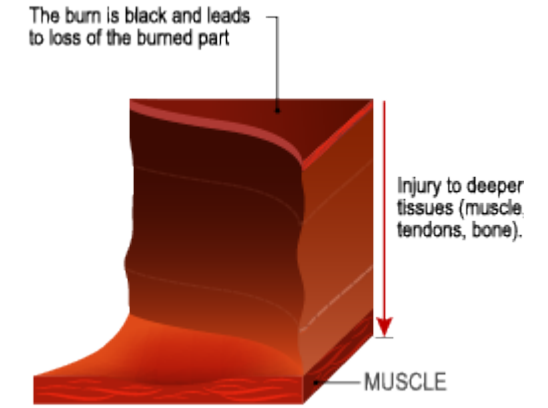


## 3<sup>rd</sup> degree

- Full thickness
- Little or no pain
- Can be white, brown, or charred
- Feel firm and leathery when touched
- Will not blanch

Examples: Hot oil, flames, or superheated steam

- Heals only from outside in
- May take month to heal



## 4<sup>th</sup> degree

- Full thickness + muscle/bone
- Frequently requires grafts and amputations
- Healing prolonged and higher risks of complications

# Biphasic response

## Phase 1

Pro-inflammatory

- Cellular level
  - Histamines, Macrophages, Hypermetabolism leads to cytokines IL-1/IL-6
  - TNF and other factors lead to proapoptosis (cell death)
- Release of inflammatory markers
- Increase vascular/capillary permeability
- Fluid shifts out of intravascular compartment
- Response exceeds those seen in trauma or sepsis
- Cardiac output is decreased
- Vascular resistance increased

# Biphasic response

## Phase 2

Anti-inflammatory

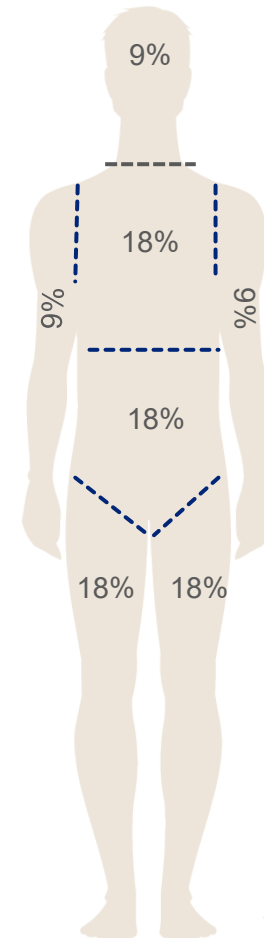
- Cellular level
  - T lymphocytes
  - Cytokines IL4/IL-10
  - TGF
  - Kinins – bradykinin
    - increased vascular permeability
    - smooth muscle contraction
    - Can stimulate pain fibers
- Growth factors initiate migratory and proliferative responses.
- Keratinocytes re-epithelialize the wound
- Endothelial cells and fibroblasts initiate granulation tissues
- Free radicals - some are good but not too much



# Wallace's rule of 9 as it relates to Total Body Surface Area (TBSA)

- Head and neck: 9% of TBSA
- Each arm: 9% TBSA
- Each leg: 18% TBSA
- Anterior trunk (front of the body) 18% TBSA
- Posterior trunk (back of the body) 18% TBSA

Rule of 9s does not apply for children.(Lund-Browder )



%s are for front and back of body.

# American Burn Association

Minor	Moderate	Severe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• &lt;15% TBSA adults; &lt;10% children</li><li>• Face and perineum not involved</li><li>• Outpatient management</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partial thickness 15-20% TBSA adults; 10-15% children</li><li>• Full thickness 2-10% TBSA adults</li><li>• Minimal face and perineum</li><li>• Admission but possibly not burn center</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partial thickness &gt;25% TBSA; &gt;20% children</li><li>• Full thickness &gt;10% TBSA</li><li>• Face perineum or extremities</li><li>• Admit to burn center</li></ul>

# Urgent evaluation

- Inhalation injuries possible intubation
- Carbon monoxide and cyanide measures
- Metabolic acidosis
- Oxygenation
- Circumferential full thickness burn escharotomy
- Shock



# Factors for assessing and treating burns

# Fluids

- Early resuscitative phase
- Action needed quickly
- Mortality increased if fluids delayed longer than two hours post burn
- Caution on overload
- Rhabdomyolysis and/or acute renal failure 1ml/kg/h

**Burns involving  
15-20% TBSA  
will result in  
hypovolemic shock**

## Goals for fluids

- Urine output (UOP) between 0.5ml – 1ml kg/h
- SBP > 90

# Fluids

## Crystalloid

Low molecular weight and size

**Pros:** Move faster and easier into vascular areas 20-30 min

**Cons:** Flows into 3<sup>rd</sup> spaces

**Examples:**

- Saline
- Ringers lactate solution
- 5% dextrose

## Colloids

High molecular weight and size substances; similar to plasma

**Pros:** Good capillary perfusion, maintains osmotic pressure

**Cons:** Slow 2-8 hours, expensive

# Fluid formulas

## Evans 1952

Use some crystalloid and some colloid

Pediatric formulas are different and used <30kg

## Brooke 1953

Use some crystalloid and some colloid

Pediatric formulas are different and used <30kg

## Parkland 1968 Dr. Charles Baxter

- Most widely recognized formula
- 2 to 4 ml of Ringer's Lactate/kg/%BSA
- First half given over the first 8h; remainder given over the next 16 hours
- Unique as it recommended higher volumes of fluid

Monitor UOP adjusting fluids to keep it 0.5-1ml/kg/h

# Oxygenation

## Supraglottal (above vocal chords)

- Normal - Reflexive airway closure
- Loss of airway via edema or loss of reflex (i.e., TBI or carbon monoxide)

## Tracheobronchial

- Bronchospasms – inhaled irritants
- Mucosal edema

## Pulmonary parenchymal

Edema, loss of ciliary clearance, effusions

## Chest/Abdominal Wall

Circumferential burns  
Mechanical trauma



# Wound management

Benefits of early  
excision and grafting  
within 24-48 hours

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## Split thickness grafts – Autograft

- Provides coverage and low risk of rejection
- Donor sites are painful and have wound healing burden

## Allograft (human), Xenograft (other species), or other substitutes

- Studies show similar effectiveness in allograft and xenograft
- Substitutes are available for both dermal and epidermal layers
- Studies on regenerative dermal scaffolds and stem cells

# Wound management: Dressings

<b>US Army Burn Center</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Traditional approach</li><li>• Mafenide acetate cream AM and silver sulfadiazine PM with gauze dressings</li></ul>
<b>Silver impregnated and other dressings</b>	Alginate, Antimicrobial, Hydrocolloid, Hydrogel, Polyurethane foam
<b>Cell based coverage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Culture based use small biopsy of patients skin keratinocytes expanded over 2-3 weeks</li><li>• ReCell mixture of keratinocytes, melanocytes, and stem cells in liquid for spraying</li></ul>
<b>Keratinocytes and Stem Cells</b>	Clinical studies in progress

# Wound management: Technology



## Computer Software programs

Calculate and track size  
and healing



## Biomarkers for wound healing

Under investigation  
to try to predict healing



## Laser Doppler imaging

## Nutritional support

- Metabolic rate (MR) increased approximately 180% above resting MR
- Weight loss of greater than 10% is associated with poorer outcome
- Adults, 25 kcal/kg plus 40 kcal per each percent of burn area; for children, 1,800 kcal plus 2,200 calories per m<sup>2</sup> of burn area.
- Individualized nutrition assessment for burns > 20% of TBSA
- High protein, high carbohydrate, low fat
- Watch for hyperglycemia: Nearly all burn patients experience insulin resistance as part of their hypermetabolic response

# Nutritional Support: Supplements

- Omega 3 FA may help reduce risk of hyperglycemia
- Glutamine supplementation at 25 g/kg/day
  - Reduced incidence of infections, hospital stays, and mortality.
- Fat soluble vitamin levels fall
- Vitamin D synthesis impaired acutely and long term
- Trace element deficiencies
  - Selenium, Zinc, Copper



# Medication management

## Pain management

- Bonica identified five phases of pain
- Managing through interventions like dressing changes, excision, grafting, therapy

## Higher pain levels

- Long term anxiety
- PTSD
- Delayed healing

Study showed 14% delay when pain scored as a 10 on first dressing change

## Other medications

- Anesthesia
- Opioids
- Ketamine
- Anxiolytics

# Medication management: Other Considerations

## Acute injury phase

- Cardiac output goes down even with aggressive volume resuscitation
- Elimination of some drugs by the kidney and liver may be decreased

## Hyperdynamic phase

- Cardiac output increases
- Increased clearance of drugs dependent on organ blood flow for elimination

## Chronic phase

- Hyperalgesia versus tolerance
- NMDA receptor modulation
- Neuropathic pain

# Complications

- Fluid “creep” (Over resuscitation pulmonary and/or cerebral edema )
- Multi organ involvement
- Malnutrition
- Delayed healing
- Infections
- Contractures



# Rehabilitation: Acute

- Days to months
- Pain control essential
- Positions of comfort foster flexion contractures
- Early intervention, start day one
  - Educate team, family and patient
  - Positioning, elevation of all limbs, splinting anti contracture positions
  - Avoid pressure area breakdown
  - PROM for those not able to move
  - Coordinate with dressing changes if possible

## Rehabilitation: Sub Acute

- Careful to wait until cleared after surgery or grafting
- Splinting accompanied by regular exercise
- Games to encourage movement
- Encourage ADLs – discourage family from “helping”
- Education and encouragement ongoing
- Psychological impact
  - Permanence sets in results in depression, anger, grief/loss
  - Children can show regression in development
  - Return to work issues, particularly if injury occurred at work

## Rehabilitation: Chronic

- Scar management - months
- Ongoing positioning, splinting and exercises!
- Massage and moisturizing (Helps collagen alignment, Desensitization, Acceptance of touch/feel)
- Hypertrophic scars
  - Greater risk for healing >21 days
  - Most active 4-6 months post
- Pressure therapy – 23h/day once skin closed
  - Reduces thickness, redness, swelling, itching, contractures
  - Silicone pads over hypertrophic areas

# Ancillary needs

## Home health care needs

- Nurse
- PT/OT
- Home health aid
- Respiratory therapy
- Nutritionist
- Other services – i.e. infusion, dialysis

## Transportation

## Equipment needs

## Psychological support

- Return to work issues, particularly if injury occurred at work
- Smartphone and VR studies in pediatrics

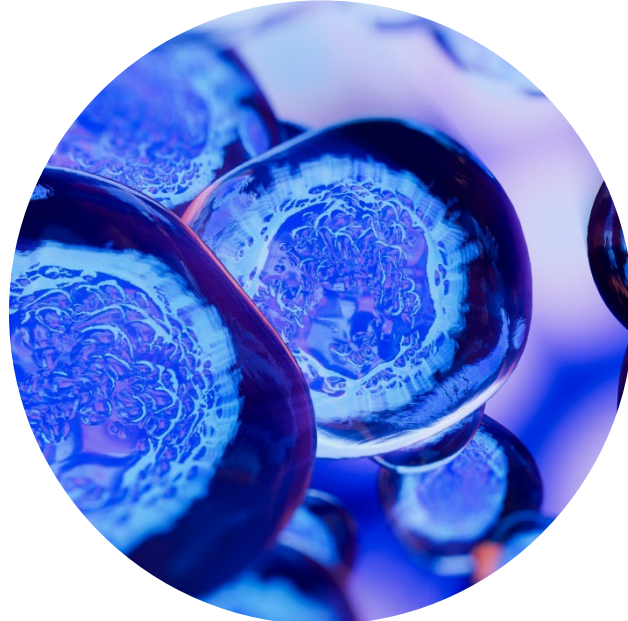


# Challenges and prevention

# Future challenges



Population demographics  
Obesity, aging



Stem cell uses



Hyperbaric Oxygen  
more data needed

# Prevention at work

- Prevention through risk recognition
- Focus on young males, construction sites
- Dangerous behavior, carelessness, lack of protective equipment, and failure to follow instructions were frequent causes of injury
- Occupational experience was under 5 years in majority of the cases
- Ensure your workplace is safe
- One study showed only 15% experienced an unavoidable accident

## Prevention at home

- Set your water heater to 120°F.
- Test the water temperature before you or your child gets into the tub or shower.
- Turn handles of pots and pans toward the back of the stove, or use back burners.
- Use smoke alarms in your home and check batteries every six months.
- Check electrical cords every few months. Throw out any that are frayed or damaged.
- Put covers on electrical outlets that are within a child's reach.
- If you smoke, never smoke in bed. Fires caused by cigarettes, pipes, and cigars are the leading cause of deaths in house fires.
- Be careful when using space heaters. Keep them away from blankets, clothes, and other flammable materials. Never leave them unattended.



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