

EMERGENCY BURN CARE

1. Stop Burning Process

- Remove all clothing and jewelry
- Irrigate chemical burns with copious amounts of water for 15 minutes

2. Breathing

- Administer O₂
- Examine airway for potential inhalation injury

3. Bleeding

- Burns do not bleed, so check for other injuries

4. Shock

- Insert large bore IV catheter & secure
- Formula for fluid resuscitation for the first 24-hours:
 - Adult: (weight in kg) x (% burn) x (4cc Ringer's Lactate)
 - Administer 1/2 of volume in first 8 hours post-burn
 - Child under 3 yrs: (weight in kg) x (% burn) x (3cc Ringer's Lactate) + (maintenance fluid of D51/2NS based on weight)

5. Insert Foley Catheter in Burns > 30%

- Monitor output every hour:
 - 30-50ml/hour 20kg plus
 - 1ml/hr/kg/wt in patients under 20kg

6. History

- Circumstances of injury
- Pre-existing illnesses
- Medications
- Allergies
- Tetanus Toxoid – Administer if indicated

7. Physical Exam

- Estimate extent & depth of burn (Rule of 9's)
- First degree burns are **NOT** included in burn estimation
- Weigh the patient

Check for associated injuries

8. Nasogastric Tube

- Insert & evacuate stomach to prevent aspiration or emesis if intubated
- Keep NPO

9. Comfort Measures

- Keep warm & sedate patient intravenously using small doses until pain relief is obtained

10. Lab & X-ray

- CBC, Lytes, ABG, PCXR & Carboxyhemoglobin
- Trauma workup with c-spine clearance when indicated

11. Initial Burn Wound Care

- Wipe off debris & loose skin
- Cover wounds with dry dressing or sheet

12. Determine Depth of Burn Injury

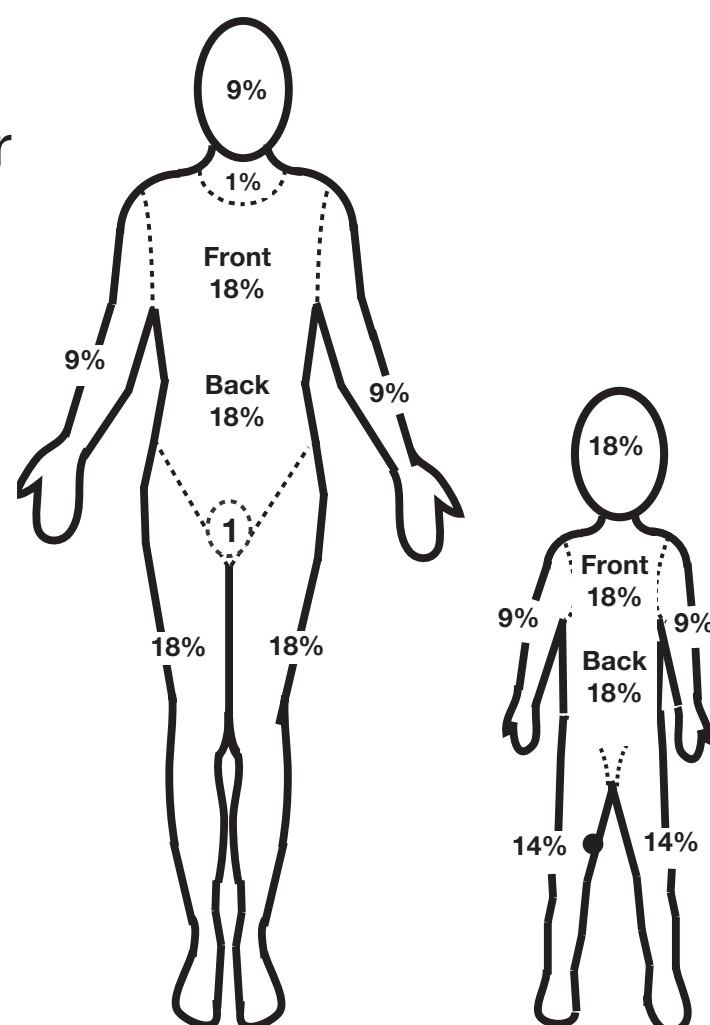
- First degree: pink in color, no blisters, minor to moderate pain
- Second degree: bright pink to red, blisters present, wet & weepy, blanches with capillary refill present, strong pain
- Third degree: may initially appear to be second degree, no blisters, dry/tight/leathery, brown/tan/waxy or pearly white, no blanching or capillary refill, pain free

13. Treat Minor Burn Wounds

- Medicate for pain prior to wound care
- Remove all blisters & devitalized tissue
- Clean the wound with antibacterial soap & water
- Apply antibacterial ointment
- Wrap wound with light gauze
- Cleanse wound each day, removing all previous ointments before reapplying

14. Triage Criteria for Consultation/Referral

- Total burn size is 15%+
- Third degree burn is 10%+
- Patient is under age 6 or over age 60
- Has airway or inhalation injury
- Has electrical injury
- Has significant associated injury or pre-existing disease
- Has deep burns on face, hands, feet, or perineum
- Is a suspected child abuse case



For inpatient transfers or outpatient appointments, call

(800) 743-7718 or (225) 387-7717

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