HOT WATER BAG SCALD BURNS OF GERIATRIC PATIENTS: AN UNUSUAL CAUSE OF SCALD BURNS (153)

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Introduction: Hot Water Bag (HWB) is commercially produced and consist of a plastic material. It is filled with boiled water. Its capacity is 1-1.5 liter. It is very cheap and you can achieve this material from any medical market and pharmacy in Turkey. There is no legal restriction of its usage in Turkey. There is no consensus for its usage but majority of the community believe its benefit for relieve some kind of pain. It is usually used for back pain, lower back pain, abdominal pain in our country. We can say that it is usually used for physiotherapy. Everyone can achieve it easily. According to our opinion HWB are not so innocent. HWB is a cause of scalding burns of geriatric population.

Material and Methods: We retrospectively reviewed 92 HWB scald burns of geriatric patients in our center between 2012 and 2015. We reviewed demographic data, affected anatomic regions and treatment modalities.

Results: The majority of the patients were female (58.38%). All the accidents happened at home. The mean age of the patients was 66.18±2.95 years old (range 59 and 83 years). The mean TBSA affected of the patients were 3.18±0.21 %. Lower extremities, lower back, back, genital area, abdomen were the most frequently reported anatomic regions affecting from the trauma. Most patients had second degree burn wounds (83.54%). Majority of the patients treated with conventional dressing methods only 23.4 % of the patient treated with debridement and grafting procedures. Majority of the patients use this devices for back pain and for heating the feet because of diabetic neuropathy. Majority of the accident occurred from tearing of the bags by pressing. The geriatric patients have reduced reflexes and additional co morbidities. These factors also play role to occur this kind of trauma.

Conclusion: These devices can easily achievable and there is no scientific consensus about their indications. These bags usually keep somewhere at home after their first usages. Many people does not know their expiration dates. In this study we detected that these devices are not controlled by the governments and Many people does not have any idea about their proper usage. Difficult anatomic regions for burn treatment like genitalia, lower back and back can be affected by this kind of trauma. Our aim in this study is to attract attention an unusual cause of scald burns in geriatric patients.