

LONG TERM OUTCOME - FROM START TO FINISH (035)

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To assist individuals in returning to their pre-injury functional status while optimizing their emotional and cosmetic outcomes is the ultimate goal of burn rehabilitation (Richard et al., 2008). Achieving optimal, if not pre-injury, levels of functioning is important on the short term. To achieve this, there is a continuous program of therapy, that needs to start early. There is also a growing understanding of the importance of maintaining certain levels of fitness and activity throughout life to prevent disability, morbidity or early mortality later on in life. Thus, ensuring that patients timely achieve their maximal levels of fitness, activity and functioning is of the utmost importance, also in the long run.

Developments on how we can best assist patients from start to finish to ensure optimal long term outcome will be discussed.

Richard RL, Hedman TL, Quick CD, Barillo DJ, Cancio LC, et al. A clarion to recommit and reaffirm burn rehabilitation. *J Burn Care Res.* 2008 ;29:425-32.