THE TREATMENT OF MIXED SUPERFICIAL AND DEEP DERMAL FACIAL BURNS OF ADULTS USING THE HYDROLYTIC EPITHELIAL SUBSTITUTE SUPRATHEL™ (096)

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Question: Numerous mixed superficial and deep dermal facial burns can be treated with the hydrolytic epithelial substitute Suprathel™ without considerably scars or functional limitations even if the wounds seem critical initially.

Methods: From January 2004 to December 2010 365 severe burned victims were treated and evaluated retrospectively.

Group I: 196 patients with facial burns: 145 men, 51 women, mean age 42.7 years, mean TBSA 20.9 %, mean ABSI 6.2; 48 patients with inhalation injury, from that 26 patients died.

Group II: 169 patients without facial burns: 117 men, 52 women; mean age 44.4 years, mean TBSA 13.1 %, mean ABSI 5.5; 13 patients with inhalation injury, from that 5 patients died.

Results: A total of 153 patients from these 196 patients with facial burns were treated solely with Suprathel™. After necrectomy facial burns were covered in 8 patients primarily with split thickness skin grafts 2 to 3 weeks after trauma. In 1 case a mixed procedure with Suprathel™ and split thickness skin grafts was planed from the start. In 34 patients no therapy above-mentioned was carried out.

In 8 patients (5.2 %) treated primarily with Suprathel™ secondary skin grafting was needed. In 145 patients (94.8 %) facial burns healed completely after exclusive treatment with Suprathel™.

Conclusion: The use of hydrolytic epithelial substitute Suprathel™ in the treatment of mixed superficial and deep dermal facial burns leads to good cosmetic and functional results and considerable simplification in the postoperative treatment. Because of Suprathel™'s membrane properties and polylactid mixture there is a quick and stable reepithelialization of facial burns.

Limitations in the treatment with Suprathel™ will be found in extended full thickness burned areas. These facial burns still must be covered with split thickness skin grafts.