INTERNATIONAL ABSTRACTS

NONMEDICAL FACTORS INFLUENCING EARLY DEATHS IN BURNS: A STUDY OF THE NATIONAL BURN REPOSITORY

The aim of the authors of this article from the USA was to investigate if nonmedical socioeconomic factors influenced the rate of early deaths in burn patients. The National Burn Repository was used to identify patients that died in the first 72 hours after injury and those that survived more than 72 hours. A final cohort of 133,889 patients was identified for inclusion in the study. A total of 1362 of these patients died in the first 72 hours. As expected, results showed that Baux score and inhalation injury were predictive of early deaths in burn patients. As regards nonmedical factors influencing these early deaths, they found that women were more likely to die early than men, Hispanic patients were more likely to survive beyond the first 72 hours, and Medicare patients, self-pay/charity care patients, and automobile insurance patients had higher odds of early death. They conclude that nonmedical socioeconomic factors, including race, gender and especially insurance status may influence early burn deaths.

Nygaard RM & Endorf FW
J Burn Care Res, 41(1): 3-7, 2020

EFFICACY OF CMC SUPPLEMENTARY BURNS FEED (SBF) IN BURNS PATIENTS: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

This aim of this study from India was to judge the efficacy of hospital-made Supplementary Burns Feed (SBF) by evaluating patient weight gain/loss during hospitalization. This was a retrospective study of 40 patients admitted to their burn centre with burns more than 20% total body surface area who received hospital-made Supplementary Burns Feed from 2011 to 2016. Out of the 40 patients, 36 were able to maintain less than 10% weight loss with improvement in serum prealbumin levels and a direct correlation of weight loss with the duration of hospital stay. The authors conclude that their hospital-based SBF is a palatable and cost-effective supplement to regular diet, which can be implemented in countries with differences in medical treatment and culture without requiring a technologically advanced environment.

Gupta AK et al.
Burns Open, 4(1): 10-15, 2020

OBESITY PARADOX IN THE BURN PATIENT

As there is evidence to suggest a survival advantage for patients classified by body mass index, the authors of this paper seek to clarify if this "obesity paradox" exists in the burn patient population. They collected data on 519 adult patients admitted to an American Burn Association Verified Burn Centre between 2009 and 2017. Their results showed that for every kg/m^2 increase in BMI, the odds of death decreased. When adjusted for total BSA, being obesity class I was associated with an adjusted odds ratio of mortality of 0.0166 (95% CI 0.000332 to 0.833). The adjusted odds ratio for mortality for underweight patients was 4.13 (95% CI 0.416 to 41.055). They conclude that the obesity paradox exists in burn care. Further study is required to determine what specific phenotypic aspects confer this benefit.

Lester ELW et al.
J Burn Care Res, 41(1): 30-32, 2020

CONTEMPORARY RECONSTRUCTION AFTER COMPLEX FACIAL TRAUMA

The authors of this review aim to provide a framework for achieving an excellent functional and cosmetic result when reconstructing the patient with severe facial trauma. They present a

summary of the management of complex facial trauma based on the senior author's broad experience. Initial management and contemporary reconstructive techniques and technology to provide optimal outcomes are reviewed. Three case examples demonstrate how multiple staged procedures using contemporary methods are required to produce a functional and cosmetic facial reconstruction with the best possible result. The authors conclude that the reconstructive surgeon managing complex facial trauma should strive to incorporate contemporary technologies and techniques into their armamentarium to provide the best patient care.

Zeiderman MR & Pu LLQ
Burns & Trauma, 8, 2020
https://doi.org/10.1093/burnst/tkaa003

A FULL-THICKNESS CHEMICAL BURN TO THE HAND USING FORMIC ACID-BASED ANTI-WART TREATMENT: A CASE REPORT AND LITERATURE REVIEW

The authors of this case report from Sweden present a case of an unusual chemical burn to the dorsum of the hand secondary to application of a topical anti-wart treatment containing formic acid. An 11-year-old girl was referred with a full-thickness injury that required surgical debridement and local flap coverage. After a review of the literature and similar reports, the authors identified two other acid-based solutions, salicylic acid and monochloroacetic acid, and a third chemical called glutaraldehyde that are commonly found in anti-wart treatments and have been described to cause chemical burns. The authors highlight the importance of proper patient education in the usage of common topical over-the-counter treatments.

Sjökvist O et al.
Scars, Burns & Healing, 6, 2020
https://doi.org/10.1177/2059513119897888

MANAGEMENT OUTCOME OF BURN INJURY AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN AT AYDER REFERRAL HOSPITAL, TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA

The aim of this study was to assess the outcome of burn injury and associated factors among children admitted to Ayder Referral Hospital in Mekelle, Ethiopia from 2011 to 2015. A total of 382 hospitalized children's charts were reviewed using a structured checklist. To select the patients' charts, a simple random sampling technique was used and a sampling frame was prepared based on a registration book. Almost 70% of the burns were caused by scald, and 45.3% of the burns were confined to the upper extremities. Eighty-two percent of the patients were discharged without complication. The factors associated with the outcome of burn injury were lack of fluid resuscitation and malnourishment of burn patients.

Afera B et al.
Int J Pediatr, 2020
https://doi.org/10.1155/2020/9136256