

How can we improve severe burn victim mortality and morbidity through pre-hospital care medicine?

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Introduction

Care given within the first few hours after sustaining a burn injury greatly determines the patient's outcome. Hence successful and effective initial care is very important. Despite advances in burn treatment and prevention patient morbidity and mortality remains a major concern [2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 15]. Therefore, ways to improve pre-hospital care for burn victims is still a priority and can be achieved by targeting these 3 strategies.

The faster the initial first aid provided, the minimal the extent of damage [1,2,6]. The victim's first line of treatment is often performed by the initial bystander. Better education and prevention programs for initial management of a burn should be widely promoted [8, 16].

Education

For future burn care and for future research the following needs to be achieved:

- Improvement of data collection of burns and burn facilities [4,5,7].
- Increased national and international registration of burn injuries [11,14,17].



Research promotion

Strengthen Initial burn care



AIM - To achieve wound healing as early as possible and minimize morbidity by:

- Fluid Resuscitation end points [6, 10, 11,12, 13, 14, 15]
- Communication and transport [6, 8]
- Infection prevention [6,10, 11, 15, 17]
- Inflammation management [6, 12]
- Initial wound cooling [9, 11, 12, 13, 15]
- Burn facility selection [5]

Conclusion

Burn victims present with a variation of factors that can influence their treatment and response.

Thus providing a successful outcome is hard. However, If these strategies are applied, it will lead to better targeted prevention campaigns, improved pre-hospital multidisciplinary burn treatment and increased fundamental research. Consequently improving and preventing the devastating consequences burns have.

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