

Global Wound Care Congress

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EARLY BURN WOUND EXCISION: THE WAY TO SURVIVAL

Burn injury is a dreaded scourge the world over and indeed is fairly commonly tackled by the military surgeon. While superficial burn wounds heal spontaneously, the deep ones need to be excised and appropriately covered, preferably with autogenous split thickness skin grafts. This results in increased survival, decreased infection rates, and decreased length of hospital stay. However, this standard of care is quite often not offered to the unfortunate patient in the developing world as also in India. We in the Indian Armed Forces have taken the initiative to mitigate the suffering of the soldier and his dependents by this technique and present our 10-year experience in two large burn centers across the country. 622 consecutive patients with deep burn wounds who underwent early excision were included in the study. Average percentage of burned area was 33.09% and average percentage of area excised early in the study group was 20.07%. Maximum area excised at a time in one patient was 45%, with 15 patients excised in excess of 30%. Hospital stay before the early excision was 2.85 days per percent of body surface area burns. After initiation of early burn wound excision, this decreased to 1 day per percent of body surface area burns.

It is indeed a tough challenge to treat patients with major and deep burn wounds. Early excision of burns is far superior to conservative treatment in tackling deep burns. This markedly reduces mortality and significant morbidity in the wounded soldier and the members of his family.

Biography

Bipin Puri has completed his M Ch in Pediatric Surgery from the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, India in the year 1993. He further completed his Fellowship in Pediatric Urology from Birmingham Children's Hospital, UK in 1997 and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh). He is currently the Senior Consultant Surgeon for the Armed Forces Medical Services of India, the highest Chair in the faculty of Surgery in the Armed Forces in India. He has 35 publications, 04 International papers and 03 chapters in Medical Text books. He is an examiner for Post Graduate studies with the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, India, the PGIMER, India, Delhi University and MUHS University, India.

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