Challenges in

Burn Mass Casualty Incidents

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Burn disaster geography 1990-2000

Casualties 1990-2000





Casualties

	30
	10,000
1	20,000
	30,000

Burn disaster geography 2001 - 2015

Casualties 2001-2015



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Size shows sum of Casualties. Details are shown for Country.

Casualties

	10
(10,000
	20,000
	30,000

Burn Networks





London and South East of England Burn Network:

Surge Capacity Vs Capability

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NHS England Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response

Concept of Operations for the management of Mass Casualties (Burns Annex)



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Challenges of trauma burn care

Burn Mass Casualty Incidents

- Trauma
- Burn
- CBRN
- Trauma + Burn
- Trauma + Burn + CBRN

Factors known to influence patient outcome

- %Total Burn Surface Area
- Depth of injury
- Anatomical location of injury
- Age of the patient
- Hypothermia
- Co-morbidities and associated injuries

Ryan et al. 1998. Objective estimates of the probability of death from burn injuries. *N* Engl JMed 338:362-6.

Bloemsma et al. 2008. Mortality and causes of death in a burn centre. *Burns 34:1103-7*. Pereira et al. 2004. Outcome measures in burn care: is mortality dead? *Burns 30:761-71*. Muehlberger et al. 2010. Emergency prehospital care of burn patients. The Surgeon 8: 101–4



Airway and intubation



Challenges to assessment

Airway Assessment

Position patient to reduce swelling

Sit Patient UP

"Triage" use of intubation, anaesthetic drugs & MV









Suxamethonium .mg/ml

Intubate early

based on progression of fluid resuscitation and extent of facial/oral oedema

Commence active warming

Consider the consequences

Don't cut the tube



Give IV Analgesia



Without delay, generously & often

Burn Size Estimation

21 21



Challenges to assessment



Palmar Surface







Fluids and formulas



Challenges to calculation

Fluid resuscitation options

- IV crystalloid
 - Restrict to survivable burns >40%
- Oral resuscitation
 - ➤ For burns up to 40%
 - Oral rehydration therapy with clean water, glucose and electrolytes (accept nausea and vomiting)
 - Free water is toxic to patients in burn shock
 - Hyponatremia, leading to cerebral oedema and death
- Rectal infusion therapy

Administer Burns First Aid



Effective within 3 hours of injury

Chemical Burns to Eyes



- Do not delay irrigation for examination, contact lens removal, or sterile fluid
 - Prioritise eyes in immediate and copious irrigation with an amphoteric solution, or Hartmann's, NaCl 0.9%, tap or bottled water
- Encourage eye opening and blinking during irrigation
- Discourage eye rubbing as this will embed the chemical further



Cover the wound with cling film





Use cling film in a single layer over the burn



Warm the patient





Aim for 38°C – 39°C



Early Contact with Specialist Burn Service

Adult 01342 414440 Child 01342 414469



In Summary

- Burn services are not near & have limited capacity
- Intubate if signs of airway oedema present
- Give IV analgesics generously and often
- Use most familiar method to measure %TBSA
- Avoid formulas for fluids & consider oral hydration
- Clingfilm is best wound cover
 - Keep casualty warm and sat up

Patient Centred Approach



Importance of looking at the outcomes of what we do



London and South East of England Burn Network



"Every intervention from the point of injury will influence the scar worn for life."

Fiona Wood

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." Jane Goodall





