



# LEGACY OREGON BURN CENTER

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Legacy Emanuel Medical Center

# Objectives

- Skin and burn assessment
- Evaluation of the burn patient
  - Primary assessments
  - Airway management & Fluid Resuscitation
- Transfer Criteria



# The Functions of the Skin

- **Protect against infection**
  - **Prevent loss of body fluids**
  - **Regulate body temperature**
  - Excrete body waste
  - Produce vitamin D
  - Serve as sensory organ
  - Determine identity
- *The first three functions are critical to survival in the first 24 hours post burn injury and where attention should be focused.*

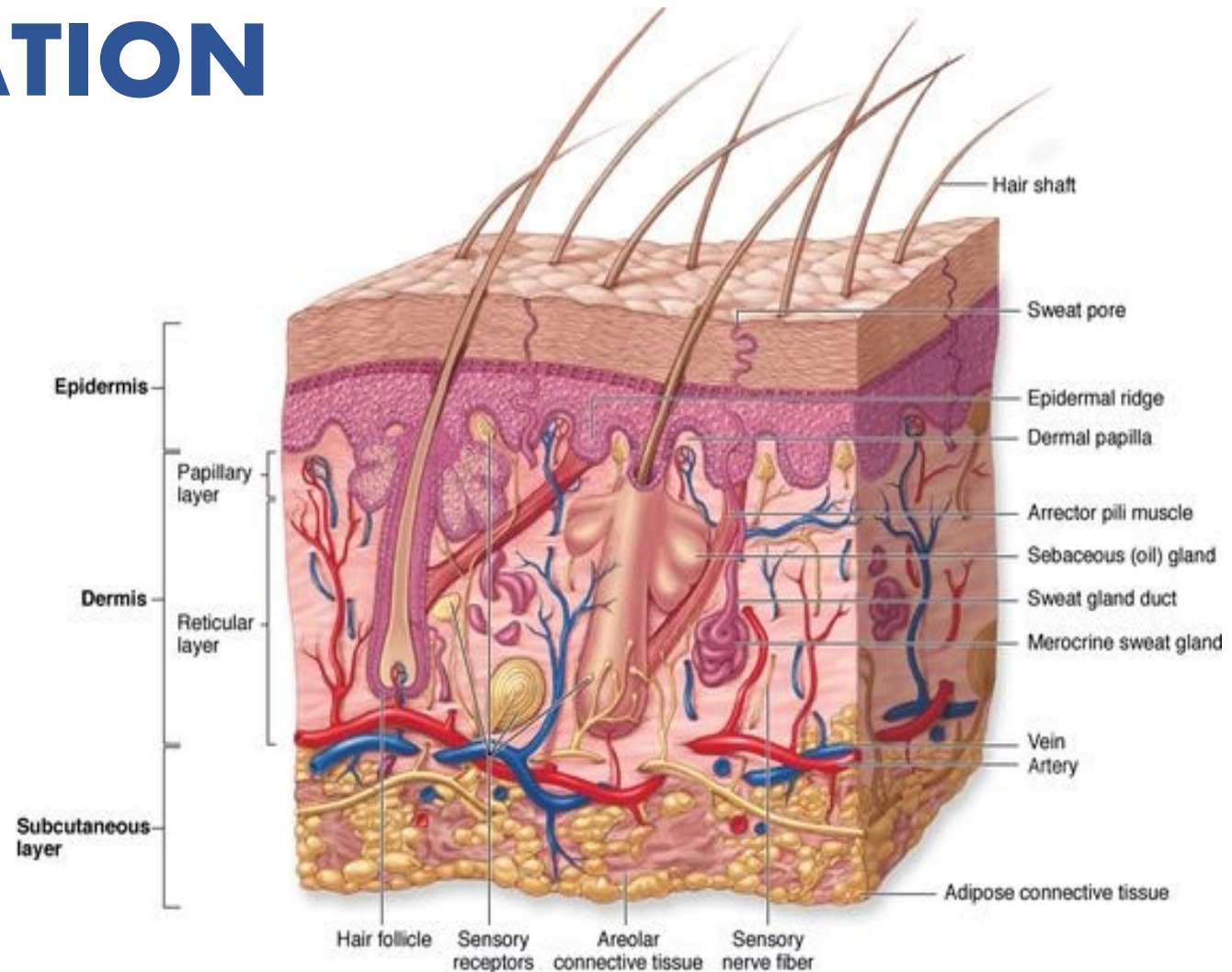
# BURN CLASSIFICATION

Superficial

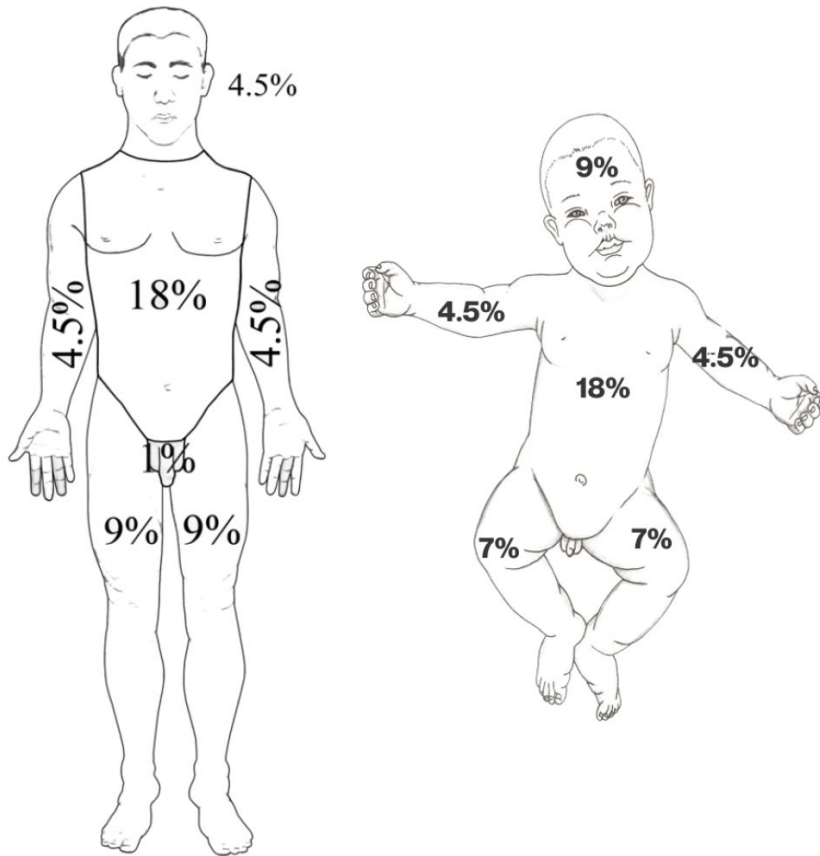
Partial thickness

Deep partial thickness

Full thickness



# TBSA CALCULATION



Rule of Nines



Palmer Method

# SUPERFICIAL

- Damage to epidermis only
- Intact skin
- Bright red and blanchable
- Soft
- Painful – nerve endings intact
- Usually heals in 5-10 days
- Treatment: Lotion, Tylenol and Ibuprofen for pain management, oral hydration
- **NOT calculated in TBSA**







# PARTIAL THICKNESS

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- Damage to epidermis and dermis
- Bright red & blanchable
- Soft
- Blisters present - intact or open
- Often moist
- Minor edema may be present
- Treatment – greasy gauze & polysporin/bacitracin to open areas, Tylenol & Ibuprofen for pain, oral hydration
- Follow up in clinic – should heal in 7-14 days
- Calculated in TBSA







# DEEP PARTIAL THICKNESS

- Damage to epidermis, dermis and mildly into subcutaneous in small areas
- Ranges from bright red to pale, blanching slows down
- Moist, blisters present, usually open
- Will most likely heal in 2-3 weeks with specialized wound care
- May need inpatient care and IV fluids based on surface area
- May need IV and oral pain management – Oxycodone, Norco, Dilaudid, Fentanyl
- May or may not need transfer to Oregon Burn Center
- Calculated in TBSA





# FULL THICKNESS

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- Damage to epidermis, dermis, subcutaneous layer and beyond
- Dry in appearance
- Firm to touch
- White, dusky, tan, brown or black in color
- Will most likely need surgical intervention to heal and need transfer to Oregon Burn Center
- IV fluids, tube feeding, expert wound care, collaborative team approach (Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, multimodal pain management plan, case worker, burn survivor support)
- Calculated in TBSA











68% Found down in  
apartment fire



# Fourth Degree Burn

- Burned through epidermis, dermis, subcutaneous tissue, muscle, and bone
- Charred appearance
- May appear cracked
- Immobility of area
- Always emotionally taxing



# Mechanisms of Burns



Contact



Thermal



Scald



Flame

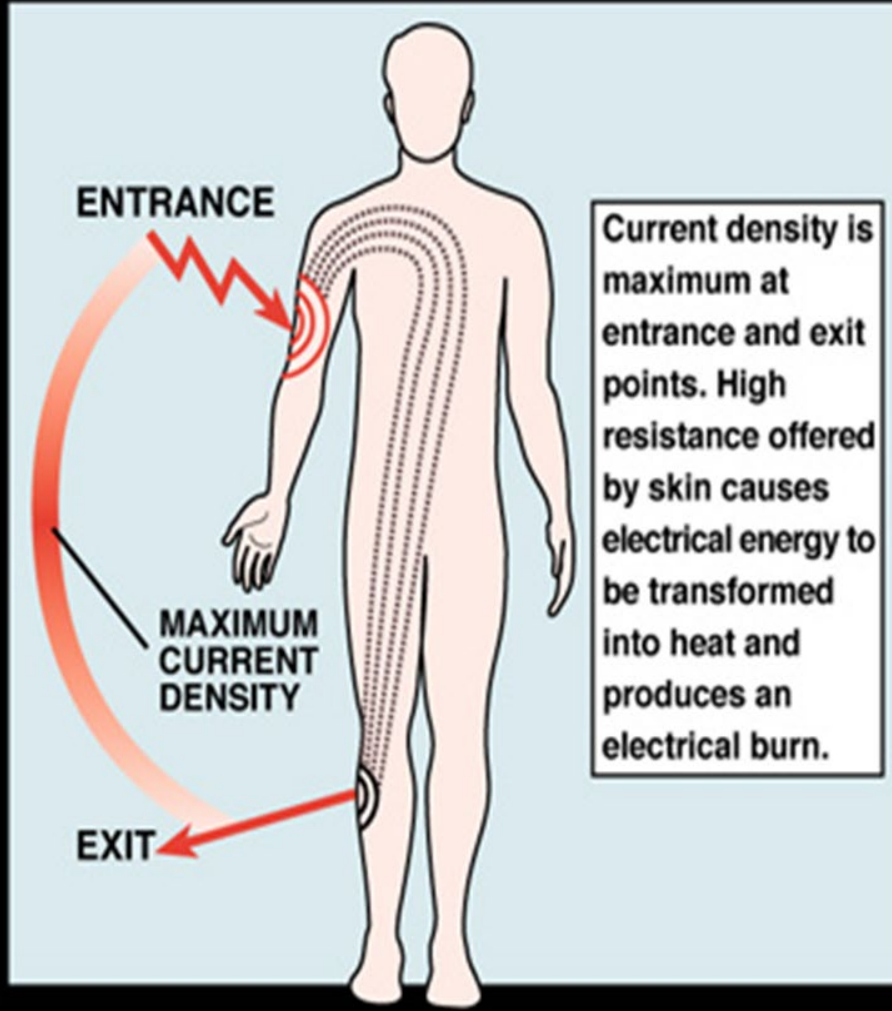


Chemical



Electrical

## Electrical Current



## Current Injuries

- Contact and ground points
- Deep, hidden tissue damage present
- Risk of myoglobinuria/kidney failure
- Limb loss common
- Flame injuries may also be involved
- Needs a 12 lead and tele q6hrs

# Chemical Burns

\*\*\*\*CALL POISON CONTROL\*\*\*\*

- Decontamination/irrigation
- Liquids and powders
- Contact to skin or ingested
- Commonly on the job injuries or unsupervised children



# **Initial Assessment**



# PRIMARY ASSESSMENT – Burn Focused

## A- airway

- Assess for symptoms – are they hoarse, can they swallow, O2 sats, requiring oxygen?
- Presence of soot does not always mean inhalation/airway injury

## B-Breathing

- Is there chest rise and fall, breathe sounds, is the torso soft, are there torso burns?
- Escharotomies are required at times to allow for chest movement

## C- circulation

- Hemodynamic stability – palpable pulses in all burned extremities (circumferential), stable blood pressure, elevated HR expected, establish access as able

## D-Disability

- Most burn patients present awake and conscious
- If not, consider CO poisoning, associated injuries, substance use, hypoxia, pre-existing medical conditions

## E-Exposure

- Remove all clothing and jewelry
- Keep patient **CLEAN, WARM, DRY**

# Interventions and Management

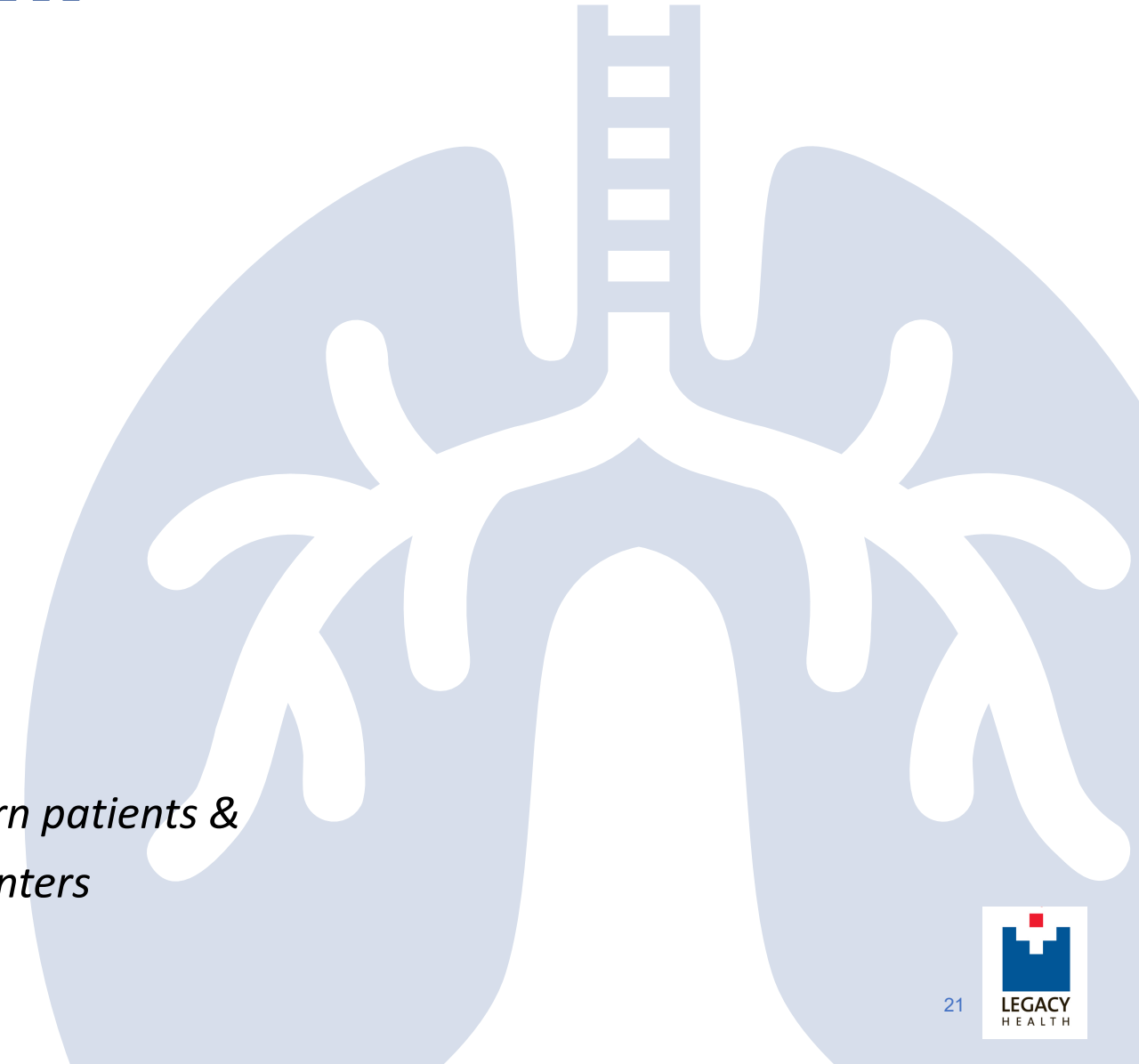


# Airway Management

## Signs and Symptoms

- Carbonaceous sputum
- Facial burns
- Singed nasal hairs
- Agitation due to hypoxia
- Intercostal retractions
- Hoarseness, stridor
- Inability to swallow

*\*\*\*Inhalation injuries are present in 10-20% of burn patients & identified in 60-70% of patients who die in burn centers*



# Types of Inhalation Injuries

## Inhalation above the glottis

- Most heat damage occurs above true vocal cords
- Results in severe edema that may occlude airway
- Early intubation preferred

## Inhalation below the glottis

- Almost always chemical
- Chemicals adhere to smoke particles and cause direct damage to epithelium of large airways as inhaled
- Requires bronchoscopy to diagnose severity

# Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Caused by improper use of outside equipment inside
  - Generators, Grills, Propane heat sources inside or in tents, cars left running
- Signs and symptoms
  - May have cherry red skin – only present in 50% of cases
  - O2 sats are normal
  - Cyanosis and tachypnea not usually present
  - Headache, dizziness, N/V, confusion, blurred vision
- Carboxyhemoglobin level required
  - Normal <2%
  - Smokers average 5-9%
  - Potential poisoning >9%

## TREATMENT

- 100% O2 through nonrebreather or ventilator
- Hyperbaric Chamber



# Hypothermia

- No ice water, use cool water on the burn to stop the heat
- Cool no longer than 5 min

**CLEAN WARM & DRY**



# Fluid Resuscitation

- Proper fluid management is critical to survival
- Objectives are to
  - Maintain tissue perfusion and organ function
  - Avoid complications of inadequate or excessive fluid therapy

5 and younger LR @ 125/HR  
6 – 12 LR @ 250/HR  
13 and older LR @ 500/HR  
< 30KG D5LR 4:2:1 Formula

*1 – 10 Kg = 4 ml per Kg  
11 – 20 Kg = 2 ml per Kg  
21 – 30 Kg = 1 ml per Kg*

# Over vs Under Resuscitation

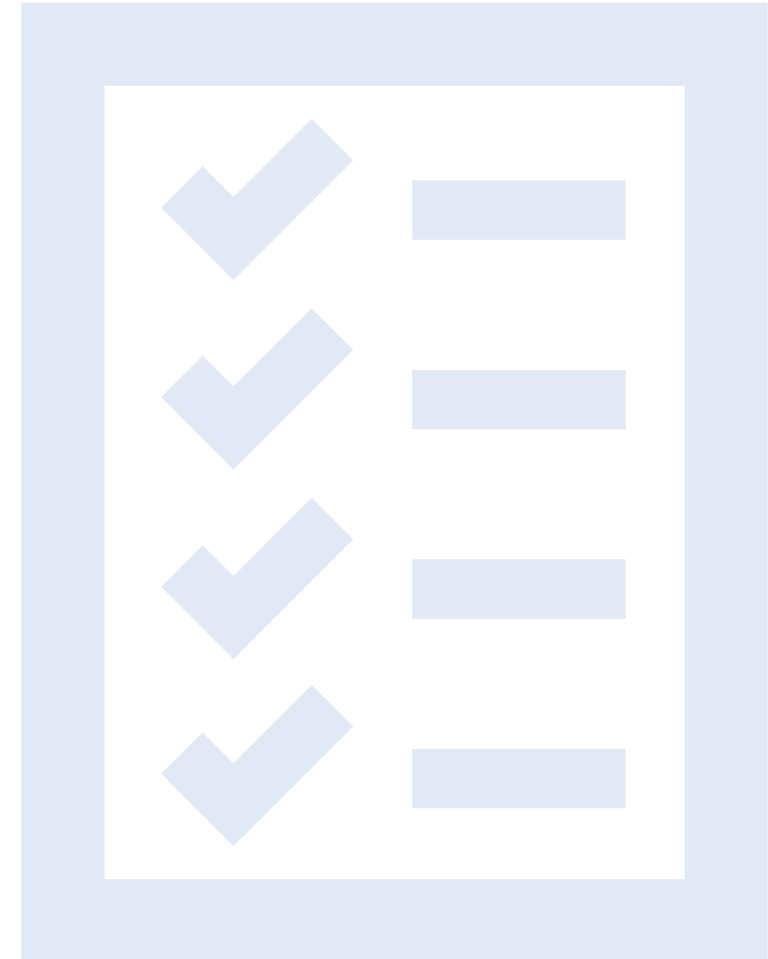
- Edema is usually at its max in 48hrs post burn
- Risk for restricted blood supply due to edema - compartment syndrome
- Electrolyte imbalances due to insensible losses
- Patients sensitive to excess fluids are
  - Elderly
  - Children
  - Pre-existing cardiac disease
- Results in burn shock causing lack of perfusion to organs
- Damage to the kidneys is common
- Type of volume matters
  - LR
  - Plasmalyte
  - Albumin

# **CLEAN WARM & Dry**

- Wrap in dry sheet for transfer, only apply dressing if directly advised
- Utilize bear hugger, warm blankets for temp control
- DO NOT ice, soak or wrap in wet gauze
- Monitor urine output
- Start fluids per provider recs
  - Fluids should always be LR
- Establish IV access – Okay to go through burned tissue
- If circumferential burn is present, pulses should be checked q1hr

# CONSULT PROCESS

- Be prepared to answer questions about the patient/connect the charge RN to the ED provider requesting the consult
- Have pictures prepared or in process
- Info we will want
  - Name, DOB
  - Time of injury
  - Estimated TBSA
  - Mechanism of injury
  - Overall impression (VS, LOC, labs if resulted)





# ABA Transfer Criteria

- 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns > 10 %
- Burns to hands, face, feet, genitals, major joints
- 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns
- Electrical burns
- Chemical burns
- Inhalation injuries
- Burns with pre-existing medical condition
- Burns accompanied by trauma where the burn is the greater risk to life
- Burns to children in hospitals without pediatric services
- Patients with special social, emotional or rehabilitative needs

# QUESTIONS?

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Burn Presentation Feedback Form

