

Burn Patient Management

4th Edition



Burn wound healing principles and concepts

Aim

Define the principles and concepts of burn wound healing.

Principles

To promote wound healing and ease patient discomfort, observe the following principles.

- Ensure adequate perfusion.
- Minimise bacterial contamination.
- Minimise negative effects of inflammation.
- Provide optimal wound environment.
- Promote adequate nutrition and fluid management.
- Provide adequate pain management.
- Promote re-epithelialisation.
- Provide pressure management.

Concepts

To ensure the above principles are observed, use the following concepts for burn wound management.

- **Cleansing** – wound surface should be free of slough, exudate, haematoma and creams.
- **Debridement** – removal of loose, devitalised tissue (i.e. blister skin) and non-surgical removal of eschar.
- **Dressing**
 - Choose appropriate primary dressing to maintain optimal moisture level and promote wound healing.
 - Exudate management – appropriate absorbency level of dressing must be considered on application.
 - Consider pain and trauma on dressing removal. Consider long-term dressing wherever possible. Aim for prevention of trauma on dressing removal.
 - Application – protect against alteration to distal perfusion due to constrictive dressings, protect against wound bed colonisation.
- **Pressure** – to manage oedema and minimise the effects of scarring.

Outcome

Burn wound healing principles and concepts are defined.

Burn patient dressing decision-making tree

