1. Stop Burning Process
   • Remove all clothing and jewelry
   • Irrigate chemical burns with copious amounts of water for 15 minutes

2. Breathing
   • Administer O₂
   • Examine airway for potential inhalation injury

3. Bleeding
   • Burns do not bleed, so check for other injuries

4. Shock
   • Insert large bore IV catheter & secure
   • Formula for fluid resuscitation for the first 24-hours:
     - Adult: (weight in kg) x (% burn) x (4cc Ringer’s Lactate)
     - Administer 1/2 of volume in first 8 hours post-burn
     - Child under 3 yrs: (weight in kg) x (% burn) x (3cc Ringer’s Lactate) + (maintenance fluid of D51/2NS based on weight)

5. Insert Foley Catheter in Burns > 30%
   • Monitor output every hour:
     - 30-50ml/hour 20kg plus
     - 1ml/hr/kg/wt in patients under 20kg

6. History
   • Circumstances of injury
   • Pre-existing illnesses
   • Medications
   • Allergies
   • Tetanus Toxoid – Administer if indicated

7. Physical Exam
   • Estimate extent & depth of burn (Rule of 9’s)
   • First degree burns are NOT included in burn estimation
   • Weigh the patient

8. Nasogastric Tube
   • Insert & evacuate stomach to prevent aspiration or emesis if intubated
   • Keep NPO

9. Comfort Measures
   • Keep warm & sedate patient intravenously using small doses until pain relief is obtained

10. Lab & X-ray
    • CBC, Lytes, ABG, PCXR & Carboxyhemoglobin
    • Trauma workup with c-spine clearance when indicated

11. Initial Burn Wound Care
    • Wipe off debris & loose skin
    • Cover wounds with dry dressing or sheet

12. Determine Depth of Burn Injury
    • First degree: pink in color, no blisters, minor to moderate pain
    • Second degree: bright pink to red, blisters present, wet & weepy, blanches with capillary refill present, strong pain
    • Third degree: may initially appear to be second degree, no blisters, dry/tight/leathery, brown/tan/waxy or pearly white, no blanching or capillary refill, pain free

13. Treat Minor Burn Wounds
    • Medicate for pain prior to wound care
    • Remove all blisters & devitalized tissue
    • Clean the wound with antibacterial soap & water
    • Apply antibacterial ointment
    • Wrap wound with light gauze
    • Cleanse wound each day, removing all previous ointments before reapplying

14. Triage Criteria for Consultation/Referral
    • Total burn size is 15%+
    • Third degree burn is 10%+
    • Patient is under age 6 or over age 60
    • Has airway or inhalation injury
    • Has electrical injury
    • Has significant associated injury or pre-existing disease
    • Has deep burns on face, hands, feet, or perineum
    • Is a suspected child abuse case

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For inpatient transfers or outpatient appointments, call

(800) 743-7718 or (225) 387-7717

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