

UNMH Health Source

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2011

Special points of interest:

- UNMH Burn Unit
Unique in NM
- Types of Burn
Injuries
- Burn Classification
- Burn Prevention
Education
- UNMH Burn Unit
Contact
Information

UNMH Burn Unit One of a Kind in NM

More than one million burn injuries occur every year throughout the U.S. More than 450,000 of those burns receive medical treatment. The UNM Hospitals Burn Unit is the only one of its kind in the state of New Mexico. The nearest burn resource centers are hundreds of miles away (Lubbock, TX; Phoenix, AZ; Denver, CO).

The UNMH Burn Unit has six private, adult rooms within the trauma surgical burn ICU that provides care for all burn injuries from admission to discharge. Pediatric patients are treated in various units (Pediatric ICU and Carrie Tingley Rehab Hospital) based on injury severity and current needs. The Burn Unit

also tries to decrease burn injury prevalence by providing public education through community outreach.

Burn treatment requires a multidisciplinary approach involving various healthcare professionals, including physicians, surgeons, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, burn techs, physical and occupational therapists, case management services, pharmacists, respiratory therapists and nutritionists. All burn unit nurses are trained to meet the complex needs of the specialized burn patient population, and their families and friends participating in patient care.



UNMH Adult Burn Unit

Burn care is an ongoing process and is continued after hospital discharge. Patients are seen one to two weeks after discharge and return based on medical team recommendations. The clinic staff is available for concerns about infection, fever and medication refills.

Types of Burn Injuries



Example of a first degree, thermal burn

Burn injuries can be quite serious and vary in levels of severity. The four basic types of burns include thermal, chemical, electrical and radiological.

Thermal burns are the most common type of burn injury and can be caused in various ways including flash

(explosions), flame, scalds and contact.

Chemical burns are caused by strong acids or alkali substances and continue to cause damage until the agent is inactivated.

Electrical burns are caused by AC (alternating current) and

DC (direct current). The current follows the path of least resistance, causing injury in areas other than the contact site.

Radiological burns are caused by alpha, beta or gamma radiation and sometimes need decontamination to stop the injury.

Burn Classification: First, Second, Third and Fourth

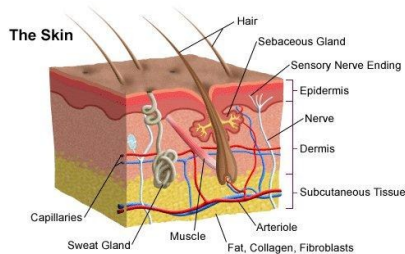
First degree burns include only the outer layer of skin (epidermis). Areas are usually very red and painful making them equivalent to superficial sunburn without blisters. They look dry healing occurs in three to five days. Hospitalization may be needed for pain control and fluid imbalance.



1st degree burn

ADAM.

painful and wet in appearance. They heal in 10-21 days usually without grafting. Deep partial thickness burns involve the destruction of the entire epidermis and most of the dermis. They are red or white and look dry. They typically require excision and skin grafting to heal.



Second degree burns are classified as either superficial or deep in thickness. Partial thickness burns involve the entire epidermis and upper layers of the dermis. Blisters can be present and wounds are pink or red in color,



2nd degree burn

ADAM.

- continued, next page

IAFF Local 244 Partners with UNMH Burn Unit

On August 25, 2011, the International Association of Fire Fighter Local 244 formed a partnership with the UNMH Burn Unit. Albuquerque area fire fighters presented the Burn Unit with a \$15,000 donation to help focus on providing expanded treatment for burned children, adolescents and fire fighters in New Mexico. The partnership involves plans to facilitate education and community outreach, summer camps and follow-up care for patients and families.

The Albuquerque area fire fighters also plan to help the Burn Unit obtain American Burn Association Burn Center Verification. This certification requires organizational structure, specialized data bases, community education, pre-hospital care and special burn treatment equipment.

The partnership will also allow for other hospitals and fire departments to build awareness of the triage, treatment and transfer guidelines for patients throughout New Mexico.



IAFF Local 244 member presents Dr. Christopher Lentz, Burn Unit Medical Director, with a \$15,000 check.

Burn Prevention Education

One of the Burn Unit's goals is to decrease burn injuries by educating the community about prevention. Simple household items can trigger unwanted injuries. Following these recommendations can help families stay safe and prevent serious injuries.

In the kitchen:

- ◆ Keep pot handles turned away from edges of the stove

- ◆ Coil appliance cords
- ◆ Create a safe "no zone" in the kitchen for children while cooking
- ◆ Never let children remove food or drinks from the microwave
- ◆ Do not use tablecloths around small children as they can pull on them and hot food can spill

- ◆ Keep a fire extinguisher available and in proper working order
- ◆ Contain grease fires with baking soda or flour, not water
- ◆ Never use an extension cord with kitchen appliances

- continued, next page



Burn Education and Prevention

• continued from page 2

In the bathroom:

- ◆ Set hot water heater thermostat to less than 120 degrees when bathing children
- ◆ Stir the bath water with your hand to avoid hot spots
- ◆ Stay with your child at all times during a bath (it only takes a second for a child to turn on the hot water)

Around the house:

- ◆ Matches and lighters should be kept in a high, locked cabinet;

educate your child about their hazards

- ◆ Place floor heaters at least four feet away from any object and never place anything on top of them
- ◆ Test smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries every six months. Change smoke detectors every eight to 10 years
- ◆ Develop an evacuation plan and practice monthly with your family

Flammable liquids:

- ◆ Gasoline is only to be used for combustible engines
- ◆ Do not clean with gasoline
- ◆ Do not use gasoline to start fires, woodstoves or barbecues



Burn Classification: First, Second, Third and Fourth

• continued from page 2

In third degree burns, all layers of the skin are destroyed. The injury is extended into the subcutaneous tissues (see skin graph below). The burned area can appear black or white, leathery in texture and is very dry.



3rd degree burn

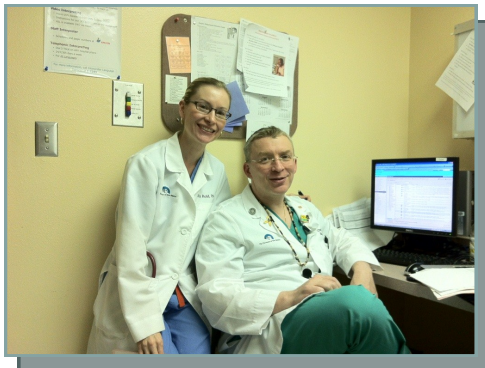
#ADAM

Fourth degree burns are full thickness and extend into the muscle and bone.

Determining burn depth is very important. Things to consider are temperature, mechanism, duration of contact, blood flow to skin and injury location. Epidermal depth varies with body surface, which can offer varying degrees of thermal protection. Keep in mind that older adults and younger children have thinner skin.



UNMH Burn Unit Staff



Medical Director:

Christopher Lentz, MD, FACS

Physician's Assistant:

Dixie Reid, PA-C

Unit Director:

Catherine Beckmann, RN, MS/MBA

RN Supervisor/Burn Program Coordinator:

Jennifer Ramon RN, BSN, CCRN

Adult ICU Nurses:

David Basilio, RN
 Andrea Gallegos, RN
 Janeya Padilla, RN
 Sonia Ortega, RN
 Annie Vallejos, RN

• continued, next page



<http://hospitals.unm.edu>

UNM Hospital Burn Unit
2211 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
Phone: 505-272-2721

If you would like further information or are interested in community outreach or educational opportunities, please contact Jennifer Ramon at 462-5087 or jenramon@salud.unm.edu.

The UNMH Burn Clinic Surgical Specialty Area is on the second floor of the main hospital and is for adult and pediatric appointments and nursing concerns about fever and/or pain. Call 272-2337 for more information.

Burn Center Admission Statistics 2000-2009

- ◆ **Survival Rate:** 94.8%
- ◆ **Gender:** 70% Male, 30% Female
- ◆ **Ethnicity:** 63% Caucasian, 17% African American, 14% Hispanic, 6% Other
- ◆ **Admission Cause:** 42% Fire/Flame, 31% Scald, 9% Contact, 4% Electrical, 3% Chemical, 11% Other
- ◆ **Place of Occurrence:** 66% Home, 10% Occupational, 8% Street/Highway, 16% Other

Burn Center Staff

• Continued from page 3



Adult Burn Techs:

Diana Sena & Tiffany Anchando

Database Registrar:

Mercedes Syers, CHUC

Care Management Services:

Peggy Hoffman LMSW, CCM, LSAS

Kathy Trujillo RN III, BSN, ACM,
Certified Nurse Case Manager

Rehabilitation Services:

Sunflower Chirieleison, MPT- primary
burn physical therapist

Kerry Trautwein, OT/L-primary burn
occupational therapist

Nutritional Support:

Jennifer Martinez RD, LD, CNSC
Paula West RD, LD

Pharmacists, Residents, Intensivists,
Respiratory Therapists, Conscious
Sedation & Wound Care

