

MAJOR BURNS IN PREMATURE NEONATE TWINS: 5 YEAR FOLLOW-UP

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Aim: Burn injuries in premature neonates are rare and there were no reports about major full thickness injuries. We describe case report on preterm neonate twins injured by contact with water warmers.

Methods: Twin 30-week-gestation males were delivered on emergency delivery via Cesarean section at the community hospital. They had a weight of 1500 and 1835 g. with Apgars 8-8 and 7-8 respectively. During the first hour of life burn injuries were noticed in both neonates. Infants were transferred to the university hospital. The diagnoses of deep burn injuries with the involvement of subcutaneous tissue were carried out. Infant at the weight of 1500 g. had injury of 20% body area on his dorsum, waist and buttocks. Infant at the weight of 1835 g. had injury of 14% body area on the same regions. Infants were resuscitated, at the seventh day after the injury, when they recovered from respiratory distress, surgical procedures started. The eschar was excised deep to fascia, wounds were grafted. Autografts were overgrafted with fresh allograft. Surgery procedures were performed in two steps, every second day, not exceeding during excision 10% of total body area.

Results: We present 5 years follow-up of patients sustained described burn injuries. Burn wounds healed gradually in the way of spontaneous replacement of allograft and wound closure by spontaneous epithelization from autograft islets. Eighteen days after the surgery all the grafted wounds were found to be epithelized. In infant with larger injury one more operation was performed, replacing the allograft on the waist and grafting the wound with the thin autograft. Five years after the injury no contractures had developed and scars are soft and pliable.

Discussion: In prematures relatively low temperatures may cause deep injury. We recommend to perform preterm deliveries at the strong equipped facilities with the staff qualified in nursing of premature neonates