



Queensland
Trauma Education

BURNS TRAUMA

Escharotomy in severe burns

Case discussion

Facilitator resource kit

CSDS



Clinical Skills Development Service



Queensland Trauma Education

The resources developed for Queensland Trauma Education are designed for use in any Queensland Health facility that cares for patients who have been injured as a result of trauma. Each resource can be modified by the facilitator and scaled to the learners needs as well as the environment in which the education is being delivered, from tertiary to rural and remote facilities.

Developed by

Prof Michael Muller, Burns and General Surgeon – Metro North Health
Dr Frances Williamson, Staff Specialist Emergency Physician – Metro North Health
Kimberly Ballinger, Simulation Educator – Clinical Skills Development Service

Reviewed by

Education Working Group, Statewide Trauma Clinical Network – Clinical Excellence Queensland

Queensland Trauma Education

Burns Trauma – Escharotomy in severe burns: Case discussion – Facilitator resource kit Version 1.0

Published by the State of Queensland (Clinical Skills Development Service), 2021



This document is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au>.

© State of Queensland (Metro North Hospital and Health Service through the Clinical Skills Development Service) 2021

You are free to copy, communicate, and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the Metro North Hospital and Health Service through the Clinical Skills Development Service. For more information, please contact Clinical Skills Development Service, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston, Queensland +61 3646 6500, CSDS-Admin@csds.qld.edu.au.

An electronic version of this document is available via csds.qld.edu.au/qte

Cover image source: Metro North Health, Recommended Lines of Escharotomy.

<https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/rbwh/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/06/recommended-lines-of-escharotomy.pdf>

Disclaimer: The content presented in this publication is distributed by the Queensland Government as an information source only. The State of Queensland makes no statements, representations or warranties about the accuracy, completeness or reliability of any information contained in this publication. The State of Queensland disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation for liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason reliance was placed on such information.

About this training resource kit

This resource kit provides healthcare workers with the knowledge of indications for escharotomy in severe burns including the critical procedural steps.

National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards



Target audience

Emergency department medical and nursing clinicians.

Duration

30 minutes.

Group size

Small group participation (4-6 participants).

Learning objectives

By the end of this session the participant will be able to:

- Understand the indications for escharotomy in the management of severe burns.
- Understand the procedural steps of escharotomy including identification of anatomical landmarks.
- Understand the clinical assessment and criteria following escharotomy to determine adequacy of tourniquet release.

Facilitation guide

1. **DISCLAIMER: The presentation contains graphic images and content.**
2. Facilitator to use electronic device to deliver Escharotomy in Severe Burns PowerPoint presentation to participants.
3. Provide an opportunity for discussion throughout PowerPoint presentation.

Supporting resources

- Facilitator PowerPoint.
- Clinical guideline: Escharotomy for Burn Patients (2nd edition) - Agency for Clinical Innovation, NSW Statewide Burn Injury Service. Download from:
https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/162633/Escharotomy-for-Burn-Patients.pdf

Overview of burns trauma

Injury following a burn can be complex, with significant variation in both the aetiology and severity requiring prompt clinical assessment and management. As with all trauma presentations, patients who have sustained a burn injury are best managed in a systematic manner with a thorough primary and secondary survey.

Additionally, a focus on the burn injury pattern, characteristics and identification of high-risk features will help ensure optimal patient management.

Knowledge of the initial management strategies for burn injury, the use of a consistent, standardised approach in determining burns severity and depth, and recognising potential complications is critical for patient survival.

In the management of severe burns with the presence of circumferential burn injury, an escharotomy is required to primarily restore perfusion and circulation, and in the case of thoracic circumferential burns, restore ventilation and oxygenation.

Further reading

RBWH Burns Information for Practitioners	
Organisation	Metro North Health
Link	https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/rbwh/healthcare-services/burns/information-for-practitioners

ACI State-wide Burns Service Clinical Guidelines	
Organisation	NSW Health
Link	https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/250020/Burn-patient-management-guidelines.pdf

The Burns Registry of Australia and New Zealand: Progressing the evidence base for burn care	
Publication	The Medical Journal of Australia
Link	https://doi.org/10.5694/mja16.00511

QAS Clinical Practice Guideline: Trauma/Burns	
Organisation	Queensland Ambulance Service
Link	https://www.ambulance.qld.gov.au/docs/clinical/cpg/CPG_Burns.pdf

Patient Fact Sheet – Burns Patient information	
Organisation	Metro North Health
Link	https://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/rbwh/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/06/burns-patient-factsheet.pdf

Share your feedback

**Please complete our survey to help make
Queensland Trauma Education better**

The survey should take no more than 5 minutes
to complete.

Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3FWL3ZD>



**Queensland
Trauma Education**

Queensland Trauma Education

Burns Trauma – Escharotomy in severe burns: Case discussion – Facilitator resource kit

Published by the State of Queensland (Clinical Skills Development Service), 2021

Visit csds.qld.edu.au/qte

Email CSDS-Admin@health.qld.gov.au

Phone [+61 7 3646 6500](tel:+61736466500)

