

Burn Care and Recovery Begins with Admission to the Burn Center

Acute Stage

This stage begins with admission and lasts until resuscitation is complete. The patient is experiencing many changes during this time and may require a large amount of fluids to replace what is being lost through open wounds. Multiple tubes, intravenous fluids, medications and dressing changes are required so we can monitor all changes and determine the best course of treatment. You will notice we take many precautions to prevent infection, and it is often warmer in patient rooms to help maintain the body temperature.

Operative phase

This phase may include multiple trips to the operating suite. Each time, the patient will be visited prior to surgery, greeted by the team upon transport and made comfortable before surgery begins. Following surgery, the patient may come directly to the Burn Center for the post-operative phase or go to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit until recovered.

Intermediate phase

This phase focuses on wound healing and increased therapy. It begins when resuscitation is complete and ends when all surgery is completed. The patient may feel worse immediately after surgery. This is normal. Within a few days, the patient should have more interaction with loved ones and feel stronger physically.

Rehabilitative phase

From the time surgery is complete until full physical and psychological recovery is achieved, the patient will experience a wide range of emotions. Along with the relief and joy of survival and improvement, he/she may be frustrated by limitations and have difficulty with the pain of therapy, pressure garments and remaining open wounds.

The support of family and friends is extremely helpful and the patient can benefit from speaking with burn survivors. In addition, the family needs to adjust to the limitations of the patient yet provide encouragement to be independent. During this time, the patient will have multiple appointments at the Burn Center and receive therapy and scar management treatment.

Reintegration and Reconstruction

Within the Burn Center, we help patients return to work and reintegrate socially, while providing reconstructive services, including plastic surgery and therapy.