

Product evaluation of Burnaid™ in the treatment of cutaneous burns

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Background

Prompt and effective cooling of a burn wound and adequate analgesia is a challenging problem undertaken by Emergency department staff. The efficacy of melaleuca oil as a first aid measure for the treatment of superficial burns is well described. Melaleuca oil (Tea Tree Oil) has antimicrobial, localized, anaesthetic and anti-inflammatory properties in human and animal studies¹. "BURNAID" is a 97% water hydrogel dressing containing 4% melaleuca oil impregnated into a proprietary gel medium. It is designed for use as a first response treatment to cutaneous burn injury.

Objective

To demonstrate that BURNAID as an adjunct to standard care, can assist in providing effective "early" analgesia in patients who present to the emergency department with superficial or partial thickness burns. The ease of application of the product will also be assessed.

Method

This is a single centre prospective non-blinded trial. Consecutive patients presenting with all types of superficial and partial thickness burns were recruited from the Alfred Hospital Emergency Department over a 4 month period (May 2006 to August 2006). All patients received standard burns care and oral and intravenous analgesia as required. Patient analgesic responses were documented in a likert scale format post application of BURNAID. The user-friendliness of BURNAID including packaging, ease of application, ease of removal and time taken to apply were documented.

Patients

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria:

Age > 16 years

Informed consent

Superficial or partial thickness burns

Results

Preliminary results rate BURNAID highly as an effective first aid measure in the treatment of superficial/partial thickness burns. BURNAID's analgesic and cooling qualities are advantageous during initial burn management phases. Staff evaluating the product identifies ease of application as a positive characteristic.

The protocol for use of BURNAID and detailed results will be presented in poster format.