



FIG 13-7 Full-thickness burn with muscle and fascia involved. (Courtesy of Hillcrest Medical Center, Tulsa, OK.)

Severity of Injury

Burns are classified as minor, moderate, or major, which is useful in determining the disposition of the patient for treatment. The extent and depth of the burn (Table 13-3), the causative agent, the body area involved, the patient's age, and concomitant injuries and illnesses determine the severity of the injury.

TABLE 13-3

Severity Grading System Adopted by the American Burn Association

	Minor*	Moderate	Major
Partial-thickness burns (% TBSA)	<10	10 to 20	>20
Full-thickness burns			All
Treatment	Usually outpatient; may require 1- to 2-day admission	Admission to hospital, preferably one with expertise in burn care	Admission to a burn center

*Minor burns exclude any burn involving the face, hands, feet, perineum or crossing joints; electrical burns; any injury complicated by the presence of inhalation injury or concomitant trauma; and children with psychosocial factors affecting the injury.

TBSA, Total body surface area.

From Vaccaro P, Trofino RB: Care of the patient with minor to moderate burns. In Trofino RB, editor: *Nursing care of the burn-injured patient*, Philadelphia, 1991, FA Davis.

Because the skin of infants is so thin, they are likely to sustain