



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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Major Advances in Burn Care

The Department of Surgery of The Chinese University of Hong Kong was honored to host the 2nd Asian Pacific Burns Conference in Hong Kong this year. This conference was co-sponsored by WHO, ISBI, JSBI, Department of Health, Hospital Authority, Hong Kong Burns Society, Burns Foundation and was officiated by Dr E K Yeoh, Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority today.

Renowned speakers have been invited to lecture on their new advances, which include acute and reconstructive burn management, skin substitute and tissue banking, infection and immunology, burn prevention and rehabilitation.

In conjunction with the opening of this international burn conference, Department of Surgery, The Chinese University of Hong Kong announced today for the first time in Asia, artificial skin made in U.S.A. has been successfully applied to treat two Hong Kong adult patients with major burns. The artificial skin, which consists of an outer silicone layer and an inner collagen dermis, is designed to provide long term coverage of burn wounds. For permanent coverage, the upper silicone layer is replaced by the patients' own thin sheet of skin graft 3-12 weeks later when donor site becomes more readily available. According to Professor Walter King, Head of Division of Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit, the artificial skin was first successfully applied to a 44 year old male patient with flame burn to 25% of his body surface area on 23 September, 1995. The artificial skin provided good coverage to the right leg of the patient. After replacing the upper silicone layer with a very thin skin graft, the wound proceeded to heal with a smooth scar.

Professor Walter King also reported that the artificial skin helped save the life of the second 39 year old patient who sustained life-threatening electrical burn to 50% of his body surface area. After wound debridement, the artificial skin was applied to cover the patient's burn wound in the lower abdomen, the right & left arm. There was also successful take of the artificial skin. The artificial skin helped to minimize burn wound infection and the formation of hypertrophic scar. This unique clinical experience at the Prince of Wales Hospital suggests that the availability of artificial skin represents a major advance in the management of patients with major burns.

Dr Basil Pruitt, President of International Society for Burn Injuries confirmed that previous clinical trials in U.S.A. found that the artificial skin was a very effective skin substitute. There was greater patient preference since hypertrophic scarring was less in burn wounds treated with artificial skin. Dr Pruitt also discussed the management of

major burn disasters based on his extensive experience in managing burn injuries in the U.S. Army.

Dr C J Romer, representative of WHO emphasized the need to identify the leading causes of burn injury and burn death in the Asian Pacific region so that programs could be developed to reduce preventable burn injuries. He also stressed the importance of designing an educational program to increase the awareness of fire hazards.

Dr C J Romer of WHO and Dr J Latarjet of France emphasized that the International Society for Burn Injuries and World Health Organization would continue to collaborate in collecting burn data, in formulating plans for burn prevention with special attention to children. Priority and focus would be on preventive actions on scalds and death from housefires.

Professor Walter King stated that new burns data from the 197 burns patients admitted to the Prince of Wales Hospital during the period of January 1 - December 31, 1995 showed the following pattern of serious burns injury in Hong Kong:-

1. flame burn 17%, scald burn 73%, chemical burn 5%, wax burn 4%
2. 63% burn injuries occurred at home
3. 52% burn injuries involved children under age 12, 46% burn injuries involved children under age 6
4. 19% burn injuries required surgery
5. 7.7% burn injuries were major life threatening burns(greater than 20% burn or greater than 10% burn in extremes of life)

Dr Naoki Aikawa, President of Japanese Society for Burn Injuries and Dr Tung Man Kwong, President of Hong Kong Burns Society welcomed the 300 burn specialists from more than 25 countries attending the Conference which serves as a forum for the advancement of burn care and burn research.

Appendix

Annual Burn Admissions to Prince of Wales Hospital 1991-1995

1991	212 patients
1992	206 patients
1993	222 patients
1994	182 patients
1995	219 patients

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