

Paediatric burns and scalds

Information for patients



Leeds children's
hospital

caring about children

Caring for a burn or scald

- If a dressing has been applied to your child's burn please ensure this stays clean and dry. Do not remove the dressing until your child is seen for their review appointment.
- If dressings become dirty or if the wound is weeping through the dressing, please get it reviewed, either in the children's emergency department or by your GP practice nurse.
- Do not attempt to pop any blisters yourself. If this is needed, which is called deroofting, it will be carried out by one of our team at your review appointment.
- Burns can be painful, particularly in the first few days. Giving regular simple painkillers such as paracetamol and ibuprofen will make your child more comfortable.
- Encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids to keep them well hydrated.

Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) after burns

TSS is a rare but serious illness that can occur after a burn or scald of any size. It is caused by bacteria that usually live harmlessly on the skin, producing toxins which can then enter the body through the damaged skin at the site of the burn. TSS can occur at any age however it is more common in young children.

Signs and symptoms of TSS

- High fever
- Irritability, confusion or drowsiness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhoea
- Muscle aches and tenderness
- Sunburn like rash

TSS can be treated with antibiotics, fluids and other medications. Early recognition and treatment are key to the management of TSS. There is no evidence that dressings or antibiotics reduce the risk of a patient going on to develop TSS.

If your child develops any of the above symptoms, please bring them back to the children's emergency department at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) immediately.

Your child's burn will be reviewed at:

LGI Emergency Department burns review clinic - please book back in at the emergency department reception

Time:

Date:

Regional Childrens Burns Unit - Gate 46 Pinderfields hospital (01924 541931)

Time:

Date:

Your GP practice - please call your practice to arrange a dressings review appointment with your practice nurse.

Aftercare of a burn

Once the burn has started healing and the dressings can be removed, the area should be regularly moisturised with a non-perfumed moisturiser.

The new skin that develops over the burn site may be more sensitive to sun than the surrounding skin. Apply high factor sunscreen to the area and keep it covered from direct sunlight where possible.



What did you think of your care?

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