

Gjorgji Gjokikj, Marija Sholjakova, Aco Dimov. Thermal injuries. Skopje: Makedonska riznica; 2008. 263 pages; ISBN 978-9989-192-07-4; price: MKD 1500

Field of medicine: surgery, reanimatology

Audience: surgeons, anaesthesiologists, reanimatologists, specialists for prehospital urgent medicine, general practitioners

Purpose: The aim of this book is to present the problem of thermal injuries from the aspect of their origin, pathophysiology and treatment of adults and children. In addition, the surgical aspects of treatment, as well the reanimation aspect of treating the complex pathophysiological changes, are equally presented.

Content: The book is divided into five sections and thirteen chapters. In the first section there is a general revue of the thermal injuries. It contains definitions and historical previews of treatments. Further on, there is an explanation of pathophysiological changes in this type of injuries, their classification and assessment, the way of treatment, starting from the initial phase, and hospital treatment. The hospital treatment contains surgical methods and other ways of treating such as fluid therapy, nutrition, and treatment of infections. The end of this section reviews the following complications: contractures, maligned ulcerations, hypertrophical cicatrices and keloids.

In the second chapter of the second section there is a short review of the different types of thermal injuries: chemical, electrical, radiation and thermal injuries in war conditions (injuries from napalm, radiation particles and radiance).

The third chapter is enclosing the frostbites, classifying them as wet and dry, their characteristics and local treatments as well as treatments of hypothermia syndrome.

The second section deals with the specifications of thermal injuries in infants. This part explains

child's resuscitation with severe burns. Formulae of fluids and electrolyte replenishment are presented in details. The possible mistakes which may appear within the evaluation of the degree of burns and their recognition are described in details. Besides the fluid therapy there is an explanation for albumins and blood replacement and transition from parenteral to peroral nutrition. In this context, the importance of an early transition to an oral nutrition, and determination of nutrition child's needs the context of the endocrinal changes and the physiological response in thermal injuries is being stressed.

The third section summarizes the treatments of burns in the specialized units for that purpose. A unite is described in details with the latest equipment and surgical methods employed for treatments. Further on there is a description of the techniques for covering the burns with homotransplants, heterotransplants, and with human amnion membrane. Big accent is given to the action against infections, the new antibacterial products and dressings which are useful for these injuries.

The forth section summarizes the resuscitation aspects and intensive care treatment of the thermal injuries. At the beginning of this part there is a description for the initial intra hospital treatment: placing a vein line, initial treatment with fluids, antibiotic therapy, anti-tetanus dose, analgesia and prevention of lung complications. There is an excellent explanation of the treatment of burns by stages, where prevention, identification and treatment of inflammatory shock are primary. In this contest there is also an explanation of analgesia procedures, treatment of coagulopathy, hypothermia, indications for inotropic drugs, vasopresors, corrections on the renal malfunction, corrections of the metabolites, nutrition and immune

imbalance. Further in this section there is an evaluation of the two main aspects of treating burns. First are the inhalation injuries combined with carbon dioxide and cyanide poisoning, and second, the damaged upper and lower airway like separated entities.

The last section is called "varia" and contains other types of thermal injuries like hyperthermia syndrome with its clinical forms (sunstroke, hypothermal syncope, hypothermal collapse and heatstroke).

Highlights: This book is strictly for professional use and potential readers are surgeons, anesthesiologists, and re-animators. It is also useful

for other doctors with different specialties like doctors of pre hospital urgent medicine, doctors of general practice and also the students of medicine which will find useful information.

Conclusion: Treatment of the thermal injuries is a serious problem which is treatable only multidisciplinary. Because of that, the conception of this book is to find complex information for treating burns in one place.

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