

Takotsubo cardiomyopathy in a case of minor burns

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We present a case of a 38-year-old male with no significant past medical history who presented to The Royal Hobart Hospital after sustaining a 13.5% TBSA burn injury from pouring petrol onto a bonfire. His burns were mostly superficial dermal with a small area (~1%) of mid-to-deep dermal burns. Due to the presence of facial burns he was sedated and intubated for airway protection. While the burn injury was minor and managed conservatively with dressings, his admission was complicated by Takotsubo cardiomyopathy, which required prolonged intubation and vasoactive support. Takotsubo cardiomyopathy is a transient syndrome characterised by ventricular systolic dysfunction preceded by emotional or physical stress. With supportive treatment his cardiomyopathy resolved and he was discharged home. Takotsubo cardiomyopathy has been previously described in severe burns; early recognition and treatment are vital in reducing morbidity and mortality. Furthermore, his hospital admission was also complicated by pneumonia and delirium and uncovered his underlying atrial flutter, diabetes mellitus and alcohol dependence

Key Words

[Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy]; [Atrial flutter]; [Diabetes Mellitus]

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