

Bathroom Scald Burns in Queensland Children

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Introduction: This study evaluated the characteristics of bathroom scald injuries in Queensland Children.

Method: Demographic and injury data was collected from patients who presented with a bathroom scald injury to the Paediatric Burns Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital and Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, Brisbane. The period of interest was January 2013 to December 2014.

Results: Bathroom scald burns represented 2.5% of total burns cases and had an inpatient rate of 37%. The family home is the location of injury in 84% of cases and in 79% the patient was aged 2 years of age or younger. Total body surface area ranged from 0.5% to 20% with a median of 1.75%. In our study 8% of patients required grafting and 24% required follow up for scar management. Tempering valve survey data showed injuries occurred in rental properties in 47% of survey respondents. The rate of installation of tempering valve was 23%.

Discussion: Bathroom scald burns continue to be over-represented in inpatient data with an inpatient rate of 37% compared with 12.7% for all paediatric burns at our centre. This study highlighted that children aged 2 years and younger remain at risk and the family home continues to be the main location of injury. Tempering valves were not consistently installed post injury, this intervention would require further legislation to be an effective prevention strategy.

Conclusion: This study provides important insights into paediatric bathroom scald injuries and will assist with the development of prevention strategies

Key Words

Burn, Paediatric, Bathroom, Scald

Nominated Stream for Oral Presentations

- Medical**
- Nursing
- Allied Health
- Scientific

Nominated Stream for Poster Presentations

- Care
- Prevention
- Research**