

Flat Out Dangerous: Household Iron Burns in Children

Dr Teagan Fink¹, Dr Courtney Hall¹, Ms Alenka Paddle¹, A/Prof Warwick Teague²

¹Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery Unit, Royal Children's Hospital, Parkville, Australia, ²Burns Unit, Royal Children's Hospital, Parkville, Australia

Contact: teagankfink@gmail.com



Aims

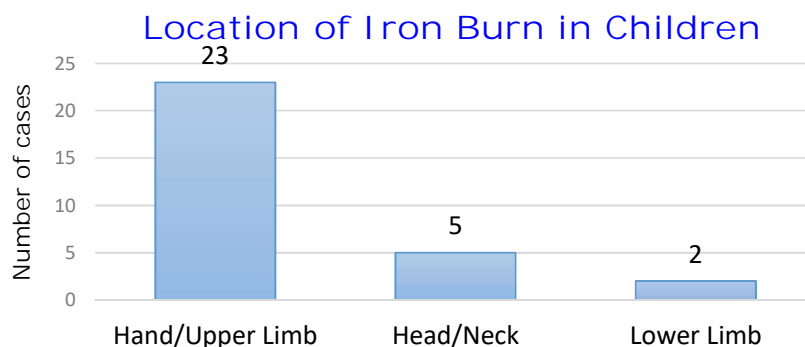
- To examine the incidence of household irons as a cause of paediatric burns and characterise the epidemiology of these burns

Methods

- Retrospective audit of medical records to collect data on iron burns at a large tertiary paediatric hospital from July 2015 - May 2018
- Data points: demographics, location of burn, TBSA, burn depth, level of supervision, first aid, management, complications

Results

- 30 cases in total, 83% of children were 1-2 years of age, majority were male
- Managed outpatient and day surgery setting
- All cases <2% TBSA, however 17% of cases required surgical intervention
- 45% of children were unsupervised when the burn occurred
- Only 37% of kids received adequate first aid
- Complications occurred in 17% of cases



Conclusions

- Iron burns cause a significant health burden in paediatric populations
- They are associated with significant morbidity and represent an economic impact on hospital resources

Recommendations

- In our cohort, inadequate supervision of children around this common household item was common
- Prevention and education programs aimed at caregivers may reduce the incidence and sequelae of iron burns in the paediatric population