



Acute Burns Admissions in the Elderly Population: A Royal Hobart Hospital Perspective from 2014-2018

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Introduction

- Australia has an ageing population.
- There are greater number of elderly patients presenting with acute burns.
- Such patient are much more medically complex with multiple co-morbidities, poor wound healing capacity and low reserves to traumatic insults.

Methodology

- From data obtained from the Royal Hobart Hospital's burns unit from 2014-2018. The data obtained, included:
 - The rates
 - Causes and
 - Outcomes of acute burns in the elderly (i.e. patients over the age of 60 years) .

Results

- Overall rates of burns admissions in the elderly population have increased over the last 5 years from 12 to 20 in 2014 and 2018 respectively.
 - 57 elderly patients were treated in total during that period.



Results (continued)

- Fifty six patients sustained their burns by accident.
- Most common cause was flame burns, followed by scalds.
- Post management: 11 patients required admission to another centre & one patient died.

Discussion

- This data identifies the rising need for geriatric input for greater number of elderly patients with acute burns.
- It also illustrates the need for better education in the elderly population regarding burn prevention, specifically relating to scald and flame burns.
- Elderly patients are much more likely to be discharged to another institution post injury.
- Its essential that these factors are taken into account to aid the development of better burn prevention and management in the geriatric population.

References

Middelkopp E et al. 2015. Response to Burns in the Elderly: What is pathophysiology & What is physiology? *EbioMedicine*. 2(10): 1314-1315.