Quick Review of Model System Research

Long-Term Outcomes in Patients Surviving Large Burns: The Musculoskeletal System

What is the study about?
Musculoskeletal complications (i.e., contractures, bone loss, septic arthritis) are common following a burn injury. These complications can occur either as a direct or indirect effect from the burn injury itself or its effect on the bones, joints, and tendons. This study looked at the long-term musculoskeletal complications following a major burn injury.

What did the study find?
Researchers found that 73% (68 of 93) of the participants had a limitation of motion, with the neck (47%), hands (45%), and axilla (38%) being the most affected areas. Participants with limitation of motion had significant difficulty in areas of mobility, self-care, hand function, and role activities. This study not only shows that survivors of major burn injuries continue to have complications several years after injury, but highlights the importance of long-term follow-up care and therapeutic interventions for survivors.

Who participated in the study?
Participants (n=98) were 18 years of age or older, had a Total Body Surface Area burn of 30% or greater, and were three years or more from the time of injury.

How was the study conducted?
Each participant underwent a comprehensive history and physical examination by a senior and experienced Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician. Participants were then asked to complete a Medical Problem checklist, the Burn-Specific Health Scale, and a self-report that measures the level of functional adaptation following a burn injury.

How can people use the results?
Clinicians and survivors of major burn injuries alike can use the results of this study to increase their awareness regarding long-term complications following a major burn injury. The results also highlight the importance of long-term follow-up care and therapeutic interventions for survivors of major burn injuries.

Reference
Disclaimer

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