

The assessment and treatment of burn wounds in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region: Consensus meeting report*

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that annually, 11 million people suffer burn injuries, with nearly half of burn cases occurring in Asia. Whilst burn wound management has improved significantly, the treatment of burns remains challenging. There are no standardised guidelines for the classification, surgical treatment, nor management of burn wounds and infections.

The APAC Burns Peer-to-Peer network panel is a regional initiative, gathering 14 burn surgeons across the Asia-Pacific region, that seeks to consolidate expert opinions in burn wounds management and translate related clinical evidence into practice and implementation.

Outcome measures identified by the panel

- Time to complete wound healing
- Patient satisfaction scoring
- Pain assessments (particularly during or after dressing changes)
- Scar assessment scoring
- Patients' psychological and social recovery
- Predictive indicators of mortality (in some countries)



Selecting the ideal burn wound dressing

Patients with extensive burns are susceptible to serious complications such as sepsis and bacterial contamination leading to delayed wound healing. Pain management is another critical aspect of care. This calls for a dressing to prevent infection and allow for application and removal that minimises pain and trauma to the wound. The panel agreed that silver-containing dressings offer benefits over silver sulfadiazine.

According to the panel, the characteristics of the ideal dressing to treat burn wounds are:

- Pain-free removal
- Easy to apply
- Able to remain in situ for several days
- Able to absorb exudate
- Provides an antimicrobial barrier
- Creates a sterile, moist wound environment
- Cost-effective

*Puri V et al (2025). The assessment and treatment of burn wounds in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region: Consensus meeting report. Wounds International. Available to download from www.woundsinternational.com

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