Care of the Burn Wound

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Wound Healing, Grafts and Transplantation,
Synthetic Skin Substitutes

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Drug Dosage
The authors and publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that drug selection and dosage set forth in this text are in accord with current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert for each drug for any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions. This is particularly
important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed drug

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Preface

During the past decade, important advances have been made in the care of the burned patient, and now hundreds of papers are published annually on different aspects of this speciality field. Developments in treatment techniques have resulted in the control of the acute physiological problems of burn victims, so that many more are now being saved from death than was possible in the past. However, recent meetings on burn care have emphasized two points. First, more than half of all mortalities experienced in burn treatment centers are the result of infection. Second, new knowledge of the mechanisms of wound healing are beginning to have practical results in the development of new wound dressings. These developments have focused the attention of burn care providers on the burn wound itself, and especially on the areas of infection control and wound coverage.

The congress, 'Care of the Burn Wound', was held on May 4–6, 1983 in Geneva, Switzerland, under the joint sponsorship of the International Society for Burn Injuries and the World Health Organization. This congress was the first of these annual meetings of the International Society to focus solely on infection control, grafts and transplantation, and synthetic skin substitutes. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together the 66 participating burn clinicians and researchers from around the world who presented recent developments relating to the care of the burn wound itself. Based upon the papers submitted, the congress was organized into six sections, which included: infection control, topical wound healing agents, evaluation and treatment techniques, skin transplantation, biologic dressings and skin banking, and synthetic skin substitutes. Each section was composed of four to eight papers which presented recent developments in the area. All presentations reported clinical experience as well as the results of scientific experiments, and many of the new techniques enumerated by the participants are suitable for immediate application in the care of burn wounds. The work presented will be most useful to burn clinicians, burn researchers, plastic surgeons, trauma surgeons, professionals involved in wound healing research and the development of wound dressings, surgical nurses and technicians, skin bankers, and professionals interested
in infection control.
It is the hope of the editors that the publication of this congress will encourage increased participation in future congress sponsored by the International Society for Burn Injuries and the World Health Organization.
These meetings provide a forum for the critical interchange of ideas and goals throughout the world community of burn care specialists. Such an interchange is particularly important in this time of rapid development of new technological solutions to the vexing medical problems of burn injury.

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Foreword

The editors of 'Care of the Burn', Drs. S. Randolph May and Giovanni Dogo, and assembled a distinguished group of individuals with extensive experience in burn prevention, care, teaching, and research for a three-day congress on six major areas of burn work.
In the section on infection control, papers were presented by six different groups representing six countries and four different continents. The geographic diversity of this material signifies the international importance of this problem and the attempts at better understanding and management.
In the eight presentations on 'Topical Wound Healing Agents', new drugs to reduce edema, stimulate cell proliferation, increase metabolism, and debride devitalized tissue were discussed. Much of this work was basic investigation that should promote further research and the development of clinical applications in many areas of wound care.
New and unusual problems were presented in the papers on 'Evaluation and Treatment Techniques'. Some of this material was original work being presented for the first time, and others covered years of treatment
of specific techniques and large numbers of patients.
The three sessions on 'Skin Transplantation', 'Biological Dressings and Skin Banking', and 'Synthetic Skin Substitutes' focused on the issue of the major problem that we have in caring for burn patients and the attainment of wound closure. The presentations in these sections ranged from topics of basic immunology to the care of extensive burns and the latest developments in skin substitutes.

The editors, who were the congress planners, are to be congratulated on organizing this comprehensive conference on an important problem.

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and the arrangement for publication of the edited presentation. Their efforts are a tribute to the International Society of Burn Injuries and the World Health Organization, which sponsored the meeting.

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