

Burn first aid in Western Australia—Do healthcare workers have the knowledge?

S. Rea ^{*}, J. Kuthubutheen, B. Fowler, F. Wood

Burns Unit, Royal Perth Hospital, Wellington Street, Perth 6000, WA, Australia

Accepted 28 May 2005

Abstract

Burn injuries treated with adequate immediate first aid are associated with more favourable outcomes, limiting tissue damage and subsequent morbidity including the need for surgery. Cool running water at a temperature of between 10–15 °C for 20 to 30 minutes is considered adequate burn first aid treatment. A prospective audit of all new patients ($n = 227$) with burns, attending the minor burn facility at Royal Perth Hospital showed only 88 (39%) patients received appropriate first aid. Fifty percent of patients receiving inappropriate first aid, had this delivered by his or her primary health care contact. This study aims to determine the knowledge of burns first aid among healthcare workers (HCW) and compare this to the general population. A customized survey was performed, four sample cases were included with 4 possible answers in a multiple choice format. All case studies asked the participant to record immediate first aid management. On a case by case basis, burn first aid knowledge was fair but overall knowledge very poor, only 18.8% of respondents achieving 4 correct responses. The uptake of first aid courses was high among HCW at 75% but particularly low among the NHCW at 28%. Our study has shown the value of performing such a course, with a statistically significant ($p = 0.00$) difference between participants who had completed a first aid course and those that had not. The purpose of this study was to quantify knowledge of burns first aid with a view to providing directed education, studies have shown the success of multimedia campaigns. It has been shown that good first aid improves the outcome for the burn patient and this study demonstrates that participation in a first aid course improves knowledge. It is justifiable to progress toward compulsory first aid courses which include first aid of the burns patient to improve outcomes for the community as a whole.

© 2005 Elsevier Ltd and ISBI. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Burn; First aid; Healthcare workers; Knowledge; Survey

1. Introduction

Burns are an international public health problem. In the United States more than 1.25 million people sustain burns each year [1] and the corresponding figure in the United Kingdom is 250,000 [2]. In 2001, the National Health Survey in Australia indicate that 170,800 people received a recent burn or scald, representing 8% of people reporting a recent injury and 1% of all Australians [3]. In Western Australia, between the years 1995 and 2000, fires burns and scalds accounted for on average nine deaths and 791 hospitalisations per year and was the eighth ranked cause of

injury death and the seventh ranked cause of injury hospitalisation in the state [4].

Following a burn, adequate immediate first aid appreciably determines outcome, limiting tissue damage and subsequent morbidity including the need for surgery [5]. Cool running water at a temperature of between 10 and 15 °C for 20 to 30 min is considered adequate burn first aid treatment (BFAT) [6–11]. Appropriate BFAT is valuable up to 3 h from the time of injury [12].

A prospective audit of all new patients ($n = 227$) with burns attending the minor burn facility at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) showed only 88 (39%) patients received appropriate first aid. One hundred and forty (61%) patients received inadequate or inappropriate first aid, of these 40 patients (20.6%) applied no first aid, a further 15

^{*} Corresponding author. Tel.: +61 8 9224 2244; fax: +61 8 9224 7059.
E-mail address: suzierea@bigpond.net.au (S. Rea).

patients applied another treatment, honey and toothpaste being the most common. Fifty percent of patients experiencing inappropriate first aid, had this delivered by his or her primary health care contact, either at an emergency department, nursing post or by a general practitioner.

This study aims to determine the knowledge of burns first aid among healthcare workers (HCW) and compare this to

the general population, in this instance a group of first year university engineering students (NHCW).

2. Materials and methods

Customized surveys (Fig. 1) were distributed to staff at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) and Princess Margaret

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL BURNS UNIT						
Date of completion of questionnaire - / /						
Location – RPH <input type="checkbox"/> PMH <input type="checkbox"/> UWA <input type="checkbox"/> ECU <input type="checkbox"/> Curtin <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>						
Age < 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 21-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 31-40 <input type="checkbox"/> 41-50 <input type="checkbox"/> > 50 <input type="checkbox"/>						
Have you completed a first Aid course				Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Was burns First Aid covered				Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>		
If Yes was it within the last 5 years				Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Have you been directly involved in the care of a person suffering a burn in the last six months				Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Please indicate your occupation and grade						
Doctor						
Specialist <input type="checkbox"/> Registrar <input type="checkbox"/> Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Intern <input type="checkbox"/>						
Please indicate your area of interest						
Medicine (including subspecialties)				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Surgery (including subspecialties)				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Anaesthesia				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Intensive Care				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Pathology				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Radiology				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Emergency Department				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paediatrics				<input type="checkbox"/>		
General Practice				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Nurses and Allied Health						
Nurse				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Physiotherapist				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Occupational Therapist				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Dietician				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Social worker				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Psychologist				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Student						
Medical				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Nursing				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Physiotherapy				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Occupational therapy				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Engineering				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Business				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Teaching				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Computer Science				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other				<input type="checkbox"/>		
Year at University						
Year	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/> ...

(a)

Fig. 1. Survey.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/9207890>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/9207890>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)