Care for Facial Burns

Burns to the face can be very scary, but the face has a great ability to heal because there are so many blood vessels. These blood vessels are also why it will become very swollen after a burn injury. This should go down in about 48 to 72 hours after the burn.

Daily care routine

You will do your facial care _____ times a day.

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Set up your work area.
3. Soak a clean washcloth in warm water.
4. Apply the wet washcloth to your face and leave it there for 20 minutes.
5. Remove the washcloth.
6. Wash your face gently with soap and water. Gently remove any debris on your wound.
7. Check for signs of infection, such as:
   ‣ Skin around wound is more red, swollen, or feels hot
   ‣ Wound smells bad
   ‣ Pus drainage
   ‣ Fever over 101 degrees Fahrenheit (F)
8. Wash your hands again.
9. Apply a thin layer of cream to your facial wounds.
   ‣ Glucan Pro 3000 cream or antibiotic cream

If you have any signs of infection, call your health care provider right away.

Do not get Glucan Pro 3000 or the antibiotic cream in your eyes. If you do get the cream in your eyes, flush your eyes with water right away.

Special Attention Areas

Eye Care
If the skin around the eyes is burned or you have had an electrical injury, an eye care specialist will see you while you are in the hospital.

Ear and Nose Care
These areas are made of cartilage. Be sure to keep them clean to prevent infection. Gently clean these areas 2 to 3 times a day and apply Sulfamylon Ointment. Also, be sure to keep pressure from pillows off burned ears to prevent destroying the cartilage.

Mouth and Lip Care
These burns are very painful, but heal more quickly than other areas of the body. Keep your lips lubricated with Vaseline or lip balm and do this 2 to 3 times a day or as needed. Keep doing the facial and mouth exercises from your occupational therapist.

Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

For more health information, contact the Library for Health Information at 614-293-3707 or e-mail health-info@osu.edu.

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