

THE ROLE OF HEPARIN IN THE MANAGEMENT OF BURNS

SALIBA MJ Jr, M.D. Saliba Burns Institute, 5582 Thunderbird Lane, La Jolla CA 92037
USA.

Voice/Fax: + 858 454 2686. E-mail: salibamd@msn.com www.salibaburnsinstitute.org

SUMMARY

Burns are painful, coagulation-prone, ischemic, cellular destructive body surface thermal injuries with complex local and systemic pathology and a high mortality. Burns heal slowly and often have scars and contractures. In spite of noteworthy advances, burn care is now suboptimal, onerous, difficult, surgery-intensive, and costly. Burn studies and non-burn studies using heparin uncovered heparin effects which were anti-inflammatory, neoangiogenic, tissue-restoring, collagen-regulating, and epithelializing, in addition to anticoagulating. Use of heparin in burned patients, according to a protocol, maintained blood circulation, inhibited blood clotting and infarctions, relieved pain, limited inflammation, revascularized ischemic tissue, enhanced granulation, regulated collagen, and resulted in new skin that was smooth and comfortable with minimum or no scars or contractures. Pain medications, resuscitation fluids, burn procedures, surgery, skin grafts, blood transfusions and burn care costs were much reduced. The beneficial effects were dependent and related to source, site, dose, pH, time, and duration of heparin use. No serious complications occurred when precautions were heeded. Patients who had contra-indications to heparin were not treated. The addition of heparin affordably improved burn care. www.salibaburnsinstitute.org