



Long-Term Outcomes after Burn Injuries: Strategies to Optimize Recovery

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Message from the Guest Editors

Over the past 50 years, survival after a major burn injury has exponentially increased. The single intervention that is most responsible for this improvement involves early excision and grafting, which closes the wound and mitigates the inflammatory and anabolic responses after injury. As burn providers, we too often myopically congratulate ourselves on survival, reduced lengths of hospital stay, and lower complication rates. However, patients and families invariably view the return to pre-injury lifestyles and roles, including recreational and vocational activities, as optimal an outcome. For too long, patient and medical provider views of successful burn outcomes have been incongruous.

It is time for the international burn community to acknowledge that burn injury may represent a chronic condition that benefits from long-term coordinated care focused on functional recovery.

- psychological recovery trajectories
- physical recovery trajectories
- neuropathic pain
- burns as a chronic condition
- return to work/ school/ productivity
- community re-integration
- metabolic recovery
- psychometric instruments
- underserved populations
- genetic determinants of long-term recovery

