



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Harborview Medical Center
Burn Model System

Newsletter

Winter 2005

WHAT IS A BURN MODEL SYSTEM?

Model systems are healthcare institutions that have demonstrated excellence in care for a specific type of injury or disease process. Beginning in 1993, the Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center was awarded funding from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) as a burn injury rehabilitation model system. The University of Washington Burn Injury Rehabilitation Model System (UW-BIRMS) investigates issues important to burn survivors. Current UW-BIRMS research projects involve returning to work and school, distress, Acute Stress Disorder, use of virtual reality during physical therapy, and studying a model for hypertrophic scarring research.

PHYSICIAN PROFILE MATTHEW B. KLEIN, MD

Dr. Klein joined the Burn Center in July 2004 as an Assistant Professor in Surgery/Plastic Surgery following a year as the UW Burn Fellow. His research interests are in pre-hospital burn care and functional and psychosocial outcomes; his clinical interests and expertise are in reconstructive burn care.



RESEARCH UPDATE

Previous research indicates that on average, burn survivors take 10 to 17 weeks before returning to work. Loren Engrav, MD has found that approximately 20% of survivors do not return to work by one year after injury and 30% to 40% experience a job disruption due to their injury.

Under the direction of Peter Esselman, MD., current UW-BIRMS research is focused on determining the specific barriers for returning to work for burn survivors. This study will conclude in July 2006 at which time we hope to identify interventions that will facilitate the transition back to work following a burn injury.

DID YOU KNOW?

The American Burn Association (ABA) and the National Fire Prevention Agency (NFPA) discourage the use of turkey fryers. They carry a risk of tipping over, overheating, and spilling oil - leading to fire and burn injury.

BURN INJURY INFORMATION GROUP

Recovering from a burn injury can be a difficult challenge. We offer a support group that can help. Meeting on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 7-8:30pm in the 8th floor conference room, East Hospital at Harborview Medical Center, this group provides a supportive environment. Please join us for the upcoming discussions:

- December 15th - "Stress Management During the Holidays"
- January 19th - "Family Adjustment After a Burn Injury".

Visit the UW-BIRMS web site at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwnidrr> for more information.
To reach the UW Burn Center Clinic call 206-731-5735.

