

**FORWARD MARCH**  
**BURNS AND HOMEOPATHY**  
**JUNE 2013**

***“SIMILIA SIMILIBUS CURANTUR”***

A **burn** is a type of injury to flesh or skin caused by heat, electricity, chemicals, friction, or radiation. Burns are categorised into three degrees based on the damage of the derma.

**I Degree burns:** when the damage is only to the epidermis i.e., the superficial layer of the skin is damaged. The lesion will be red, dry, painful and without blisters. They may take 5 to 10 days to cure.

**II Degree burns:** The damage penetrates to the deeper layer of skin. In this type burns will be very painful, moist, and red or may be yellowish with blisters. Such type of burns may take 1 to 2 weeks to be cured.

**III Degree burn.** When the burn penetrates the whole derma, the lesion will stiff, brownish – black coloured, very painful, thick, leathery and dry. These may require more than a month to be cured properly. In some cases, the damage to the body is so intense that it may lead to death.

#### **MISCONCEPTION**

There are two methods of treatment: palliative method (relief for some time, then aggravation for a long interval and hence a long period will be required for the treatment), and the curative method (the really healing process, initially aggravation followed by healing in comparatively short span).

In case of burns, it is a misconception that cold water, ice or any cold application helps to heal it faster. However, the fact is, that we palliate the pain, as by doing so; there will be a soothing effect for sometime followed by intense burning or pain on the scald. It may lead to the formation of blister which may take longer to heal up. On the contrary, use of Luke warm water or any warm application on the scald, may create burning sensation for some time but is followed by healing in short period without pain. This is comparatively rapid and without any after-sufferings, such as blister formation. It has been proved by many comparative experiments that the burns treated by cold are much painful and takes longer than the burns treated by warm applications. **It is the surest, quickest and truest remedy for any type of burn.**

In olden days it was in practise to use alcohol or turpentine oil on the burns. As these applications produce heat i.e. **like cures like**. In homeopathy also same happens.

## HOMEOPATHY

The usual types of burns are those occurring in the kitchen during the cooking. These burns are usually superficial or the first degree burns. A scald with hot water of from 180° to 190°F and the burn is superficial, in such cases, they do not require any application, they may heal up in the course of from 24 to 48 hours. But in case of extensive burns proper instructions and handling of the wound with medication may be required, as a considerable depth of the tissue may be destroyed. If the first aid is provided immediately, blisters can be prevented and the pain can be soothed. Homeopathically, at once apply cantharis Q (mother tincture). Boil 1.5 cups of water in a pan till it remains 1 cup. Keep it aside for few minutes with closed lid, till it gets cool. Add 5- 6 drops of cantharis Q in the water. Apply the solution 4-5 times a day. Do not dab the Q directly on the affected area, as it may be painful. Healing usually starts within a day with immediate relief from pain. Also, if this is carried out immediately blistering is often prevented. In severe cases powder of cantharis 3X can also be sprinkled over the lesion.

. In homeopathy around 90 medicines are there for burns, and are prescribed mainly on the basis of type and sensation on the wound. Remedy varies for different degrees of the burns. This system of medicine not only have the remedies for superficial burns, but also for severe conditions and other complications like gangrene, healing slowly, burns from radium, x-rays, painless burns, suppurating, scars of the burns and for all the ailments from the burns.

***THE OBJECT SHOULD BE TO HEAL, NOT TO RELIEVE FOR A FEW MOMENTS.***

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