

**RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HEAD SOFT TISSUE DEFECTS  
AFTER CONTACT BURN INJURY**

Loreta Pilipaityte, Rytis Rimdeika, Kestutis Maslauskas, Mindaugas Kazanavicius

*Kaunas Medical University Hospital, Kaunas, Lithuania*

**Aim:** To present the rare case of 60 – year-old man suffered contact deep burn of the head and face and to review the management of the wound and outcomes.

**Methods:** A 60-year old man presented with 3° degree contact burn of the head about 5% TBSA. Clinical examination of the head showed the necrosis of face soft tissue, eye, nose, throat, bones and part of brain. Laboratory data showed elevated CRP, leucocytes. Serum electrolyte value level was normal. A toxicology screen was positive for alcohol. CT scanning detected traumatic brain injury. The patient's treatment over time consisted of systemic antibiotics, parenteral feeding, analgetics, daily wound care, debridement, necrectomy. Face tissue defects were reconstructed using microsurgical flaps, split – thickness or full thickness grafts.

**Results:** All the head soft tissue defects were closed, maximum active function of the face was restored. After 4 months treatment patient was discharged and sent to rehabilitation.

**Conclusions:** The reconstruction of a burned patient is often a long process which requires multiple procedures. Each defect must be individually analyzed. On the basis of this analysis, the appropriate flap or combination of flaps is chosen.