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USE OF A NEW SKIN SUBSTITUTE* FOR THE TREATMENT OF A DEEP BURN OF THE FACE

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Introduction: The functional and aesthetic benefit of the treatment of burn wounds with skin substitutes was clearly emphasized during the last 10 years. But until now, the available dermal substitutes required two operating procedures. A new skin substitute* (artificial dermal matrix of collagen and élastine) presents the advantage of an immediate coverage by a skin graft, to reconstitute a total equivalent skin in a single-stage surgical procedure. This study demonstrate the benefits of the new skin substitute* for the treatment of an extensive deep burn of the face, involving the frontal bone.

Methods: The case: a patient, 59 years, who sustained a flame burn. The evaluation of the burn shows 35% TBSA burn with 33% full thickness burn, involving head and neck areas, superior limbs and anterior thorax.

The deep burn of the face involved all the functional structures, and a partial bone exposure of the frontal bone. The management of this burn included an early surgical debridement of tissues and exposed bone and coverage with the new skin substitute* and skin grafting in a single stage surgical procedure.

Results: The healing time of the wound is not quite different than observed with the classical skin autografting procedure. The coverage is effective even if there is a bone exposure. At 8 months, the quality of functional and aesthetic results is good.

Conclusion: The use of artificial dermis appears as a reliable and cost effectiveness technique for the treatment of deep burn wounds which allows the regeneration of a good quality dermal component and good functional results.

* Matriderm®