**CASE REPORT OF EMERGENCY ESCHAROTOMY IN CIRCUMFERENTIAL FULL THICKNESS BURN OF THE THORAX AND ABDOMEN**

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**Introduction**

Circumferential full thickness burn of the thorax and abdomen is uncommon and can cause deadly complication. Emergency escharotomy is vital as a decompressive procedure in early resuscitation to improving circulatory function, hence improve patient survival.

**Case Presentation**

A 70-year-old male has involved in mass casualty incident after a bus he were travelling caught in a fire in an expressway. Patient sustained extensive major burn injury involving circumferential thoracic and abdominal region with severe inhalation injury with total body surface area (TBSA) of eighty-five percent. Eschar circumference completely the thorax and abdominal region. Patient was hypotensive and hypoxic which blood pressure was 90/52 mmHg and SPO2 was 85 percent. Patient was semi-electively intubated and bedside emergency escharotomy was performed. Subsequently, patient hemodynamic shows a better progress and safely admitted to intensive burn unit. Patient succumbed a day later due to septicemia and multiorgan failure.

**Discussion**

Circumferential full thickness burns of thoracic, and abdomen is rarely encountered in emergency department. Eschar is a tough, inelastic, and non-viable tissue result from burned skin causing mechanical chest restriction and intraabdominal hypertension It interfered blood circulation, expansion of the lung, and hinder lung ventilation. Hence result in visceral hypo-perfusion and abdominal compartment syndrome. Escharotomy is vital and rarely performed in emergency department setting.

A study published by Tsoutsos D et al found that early emergency escharotomy able to reduce intraabdominal hypertension (IAH) and abdominal compartment syndrome in full thickness thoracic and abdominal burn. It is a vital procedure in reducing mortality in severe burn patient. It may not affect overall survival rate, but it does provide optimal resuscitation outcome.

**Conclusion**

Circumferential burn of thoracic and abdominal region reduces trauma survival rate. Early emergency escharotomy important for optimal resuscitation.

Keyword: Escharatomy, Circumferential burn, Thorax