

Barbecue Burns in Children: Burn Your Steak But Not the Kids

Mechanism of Injury:

Toddlers do not understand the dangers and will directly touch the barbecue. If the hot plate or coals are placed on the ground to cool, children can run over or trip onto them. Water being heated on the barbecue can tip over onto a child.

Data:

In the six years from 1997 to 2002, 1633 children were treated for burns at the Royal Children's Hospital.

- 2% of all burns were from barbecues
- Average age: 3 years
- Male : Female = 2:1
- 91% were supervised by an adult
- Area of body most affected: Hands and arms
- 27% required skin grafting
- 60% required long term scar management
- 9% required further surgery for chronic scarring

Prevention Message:

- Supervision is not enough
- Barbecue fences are commercially available and should always be used
- Never throw flammable substances onto a barbecue
- Never place hot coals or a hot plate on the ground to cool
- Do not heat water on a barbecue



PREVENTION



Barbecue fence

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