

Preface



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Guest Editor

Advances in critical care and resuscitation have significantly improved survival following thermal injury. In 2009 survival following extensive burn injury has become the rule rather than the exception. Given this increase in survival, there has been an evolution in the emphasis in clinical care of the burn patient toward optimizing the function and appearance of those that survive their injuries. The hand plays a critical role in an individual's interactions with his or her environment. Hand function is critical to completing activities of daily living and the conduct of vocational and leisure activities.

Thermal injuries of the hand can vary from superficial wounds that readily heal without long-term consequence to deep injuries that threaten the viability of the hand. Management of hand burns requires a multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, therapists, vocational counselors, and occasionally rehabilitation psychologists. This issue of *Hand Clinics* is dedicated to the

management of burn injuries of the hand, from the straightforward to the complex, and provides detailed information on management of each. Authors of each article have spent a significant portion of their careers working with burn patients and the content of the articles reflects the experience of a working life dedicated to the optimal outcome of those who sustain burn injuries.

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