

TYPES OF BURNS



1

Epidermal (first degree)

- Involves only the epidermis
- No blisters. The skin will blanch to touch.
- Local pain and redness
- Will heal spontaneously, typically within 5-7 days with no scarring

2

Superficial Partial Thickness (second degree)

- Involves the epidermis and halfway through the depth of the dermis
- Pink, moist and tender skin WITH BLISTERS. It is imperative to keep the blisters intact as much as possible to avoid further infection.
- Extremely painful
- Low/moderate risk of scarring

3

Deep Partial Thickness (second degree)

- Involves the epidermis and the majority of the depth of the dermis
- White, pale skin that does not blanch to the touch. Blisters may still be present, but not to the extent as a superficial partial thickness burn
- Sensation in and around the burn is likely to be diminished
- Moderate to high risk of scarring

4

Full Thickness (third degree)

- Involves the entire epidermis and dermis, usually into the hypodermis
- Dry, leathery, white, black, and/or cherry red skin
- Sensation and capillary refill are absent over the burn site, but the surrounding tissue will still be very painful
- Skin has no healing capacity – highest risk for infection and fluid loss

5

Subdermal (Fourth Degree)

- Involves the underlying layers of subcutaneous fat, fascia, muscle, and bone
- Skin has a charred and skeletonized appearance
- No sensation
- Usually requires amputation

