

## **ALKALI INJURIES MAY LEAD TO ERRORS OF DIAGNOSIS AND MISTREATMENT (161)**

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**Introduction:** chemical insults are not so uncommon as reported in the literature.

**Methods:** in an epidemiological retrospective study from 2007 to 2011 which took place in CHU Burn Centre Liège, Belgium, we could show that about 9.7% of the patients sustained chemical injuries ; among the half are caused by alkali. The consultation occurs most often the day of accident with a delay variable from one hour to several hours. The lesions are always treated, in our centre, by the same procedure : decontamination solution and topical wound treatment. Everyday the dressings are changed in the burn centre until healing. When there is a delay form several hours to more than a day before first consultation, the wounds appear everytime with the same aspect of a skin necrosis with surrounding inflammation.

**Results:** in the most of cases a conservative treatment may be applied, some cases have to be excised and grafted with a good cosmetci result. We present these results.

**Discussion:** we would stress the fact that the skin aspect may lead to errors of diagnosis (necrotizing fasciitis) with a subsequent unnecessary escharectomy until fascia. This kind ot treatment induce fonctionnal and cosmetic signifiant injuries. We would insist on the importance of decontamination, even if delayed, and on the different unrecognized aspects of skin after chemical injury.