



## Burn Wound Assessment and Initial Surgical Management

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Even in the 21st century, and despite the many advances, lessons learned and purported adjunctive tools and measures, the assessment of the burn depth remains an inexact science contingent upon experience and subjective evaluation of pain, capillary refill, history and visualization of the wound surface. This can lead to inaccurate characterization of the depth and extent of the burn injury, resulting in unnecessary harm from over-, under- or delayed treatment.

Effective surgical as well as non-surgical management of thermally injured patients and the wound proper is considered critical for optimized healing. The timing, quality and extent of the initial interventions continue to challenge our efforts and remain a subject of debate.

In summary, the initial management of burn wounds with proper diagnosis, thoughtful and well-defined treatment regimens and appropriate foresight remains critical if we are to obtain optimal outcomes for the patients in our care.

Prof. Dr. Hans-Oliver Rennekampff

