Paediatric Burns: Total Management of the Burned Child: Edited by Marella Hanumadass and K. Mathangi Ramakrishnan, co-edited by Prahalad K Bilwani and Arvind Vartak

**Published by Paras Medical Publisher, Hyderabad, India, ISBN: 978-81-8191-346-3,
First Edition: 2011**

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Received: 10 May 2011 / Accepted: 10 June 2011 / Published online: 16 July 2011
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All the professionals in the field of burn care are aware that the overall care of burn is abysmal in our country. This is more so in the area of management of burn in children. The only way to improve the care is self evaluation, introspection, analysis and working towards prevention and effective management.

The book entitled 'Paediatric burns: Total Management of the burned child' edited by Marella Hanumadass and K. Mathangi Ramakrishnan is a comprehensive book on the management of children with burns. It is heartening to see that this book is written by the leading burn surgeons of India. It is impressive to come across Indian data from the various burn centres in the country. Epidemiological data has been presented from some of the major burn centres of India, one of them exclusively a pediatric unit, giving us an insight into the volume of the children being victims of burn accidents. Statistical analysis of the presented raw data would have improved the presentation. The chapter on prevention has mentioned some of the published data from India and the author has justified the statement- "analysis and intervention".

The chapter on 'Triage and Management of Burn Disaster in Paediatric Population' rightly reminds us of the major burn disaster involving child victims. I had personally visited the disaster site and participated in the management of these unfortunate tiny tots. It would have been nice if the authors could have modified some of the disaster protocols to suit Indian children e.g., percent body surface area burn to label it a major burn. However, they have done justice to the topic.

In burns, the first aim of management is healing of the burn wounds. This is the thrust area in care of burns. That is why the editors have rightly devoted four chapters to local wound care. However, this has caused some repetition. Still every chapter is informative and forms good reading. All the chapters are educative, however recent data, information and development could have been added in some chapters. The images are in plenty which gives an impressive colourful look. Addition of algorithms and charts in some of the chapters would have made this book still more relevant and useful.

I cannot avoid mention of two very important chapters 'Anaesthetic considerations and pain management in paediatric burns' and 'Non-thermal wounds that mimic burns and their management in children'. These are the chapters which are different and apart from run of the mill. The authors have truly done justice to the title.

Aptly the book ends with 'Psychological and social support of children with burn injuries' as these unfortunate children need to be rehabilitated to become equal partners in the society as any other individual. This remains the end point of the management of burn children.

I congratulate the editors and the authors for this truly educative and informative book on total management of the burned child. I recommend this book for reading to all those who are actively involved in care of children with burn trauma as well as all the postgraduates who are the future care givers.

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