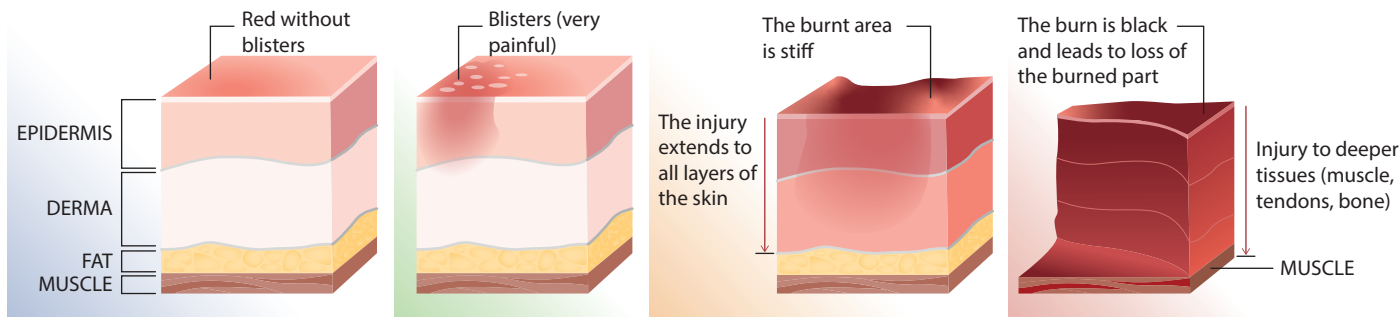


# BURNS

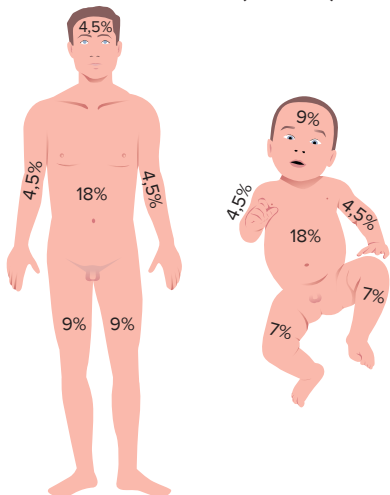


**A burn** is tissue damage caused by excessive heat, electricity, radioactivity, or corrosive chemicals that denature (break down) the proteins in the skin cells. All burns cause homeostatic imbalances in the body and are graded according to their severity.



Name	SUPERFICIAL	SUPERFICIAL PARTIAL THICKNESS	DEEP PARTIAL THICKNESS	FULL THICKNESS
Common appearance	Dry, red, easily blanching, sometimes painful, such as a sunburn	Moist, red, blanching, blisters, very painful	Drier, more pale, less blanching, less pain	Dry, leathery texture, variable color (white, brown, black), loss of pin prick sensation
Calculation of "TBSA"	NOT counted	Counted	Counted	Counted

The rule of nines is used to estimate the total burn surface area (TBSA):



## Nursing Interventions for Burn Care:

- Monitor for hypothermia.
- Assess breathing.
- Maintain C spine.
- Conduct neuro evaluation.

## NURSING TIPS:

- Severity of burn injury is determined by location and extent of burn area.
- Assess for burns involving face, mouth, or smoke inhalation (singled facial hair, smoke debris around mouth) that may compromise airway and need intubation for airway management.
- Facilitate transfer to specialized burn unit for extensive burn injuries, genital burns, high-voltage and chemical burns, and pediatric burns.
- Hyperkalemia is likely to occur as a result of cell lysing. Remember, potassium lives inside the cell. As cells lyse, potassium effluxes into blood circulation.

## NOTES

