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STUDY SHOWS PEDIATRIC BURNS HEAL WITH FEWER TREATMENTS

Finding could improve recovery experience for pediatric patients

KANSAS CITY, MO – October 17, 2011 – According to a new study from researchers at [Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics](#) in Kansas City, Mo., fewer treatments are just as effective as standard of care for children suffering from burns. The research was presented at the [American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition](#) in Boston.

“Given the risk of infection, dressings for burn patients need to be changed once or twice a day. The experience can be traumatic, especially for a young child,” said [Daniel Ostlie, M.D.](#), director, Surgical Critical Care at Children’s Mercy and lead investigator of the study. “If we can reduce this trauma just the slightest bit by eliminating one of the topical applications – with no major implications for outcome – we can make a significant improvement in the patient recovery experience.”

In the prospective randomized study, researchers compared the effectiveness of two burn therapies commonly used to facilitate the healing process: topical silver sulfadiazine, an antimicrobial treatment, and collagenase ointment, an enzyme therapy. While silver sulfadiazine is frequently used for its anti-bacterial properties, collagenase ointment is believed to shorten the healing time of burn wounds.

“For all of our burn patients, we want to avoid more invasive treatment, such as skin grafting, because they add another layer of distress for the patient and the family,” said Janine Pettiford, M.D., surgical scholar in the Department of Surgery at Children’s Mercy and an author of the study. “Non-invasive topical therapies have proven effectiveness but no studies have demonstrated if one treatment is more effective than another in reducing the odds that the patient would need a skin graft.”

Using a consistent intervention approach for both therapies, researchers found there was no difference in the need for skin grafting between the two therapies. Additionally, the cost differential associated with both therapies was insignificant.

About Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

[Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics](#), located in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the nation's top pediatric medical centers. The 314-bed hospital provides care for children from birth through the age of 18, and has been recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center with Magnet designation for excellence in nursing services, and ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals" in all 10 specialties they rank. Our faculty of 600 pediatricians and researchers across more than 40 subspecialties are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. For more information about Children's Mercy and its research, visit childrensmercy.org or download our mobile phone app *CMH4YOU* for all phone types. For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).