

# ESTIMATING THE PERCENT OF BODY SURFACE BURNED (1700)

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## ESTIMATING THE PERCENT OF BODY SURFACE BURNED

In addition to estimating the depth of the burn, it is necessary to estimate the amount of skin surface area involved, specifically the extent of second degree and third degree burns since first degree burns are not included in this estimate. The rule of nines (figure 1) provides a quick method of estimating the percentage of skin which has been burned. The palm method (figure 2) is another quick and simple method for field use on small burn areas.

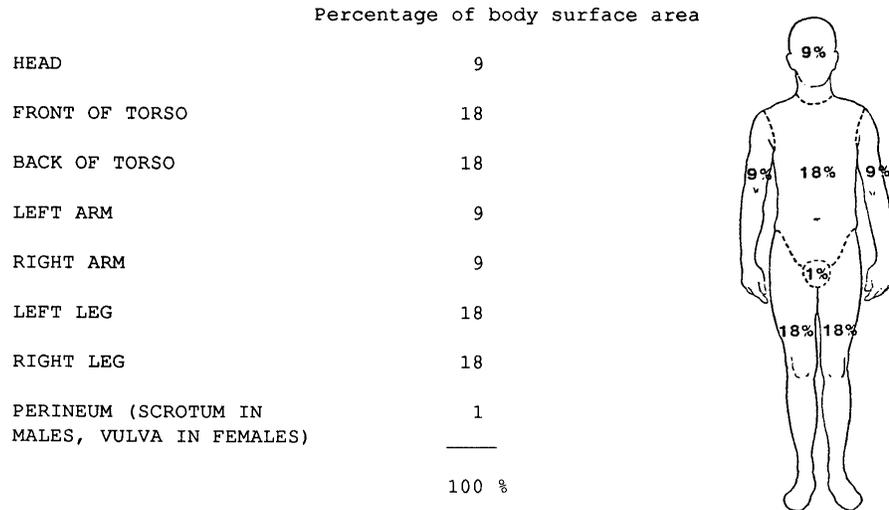


Figure 1. Rule of Nines

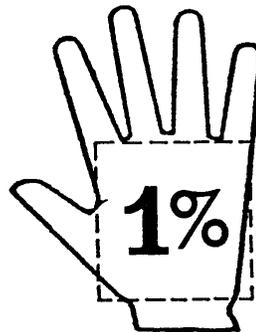


Figure 2. Palm Method

The size of the patient's palm area on their hand equals 1 percent of burn area.