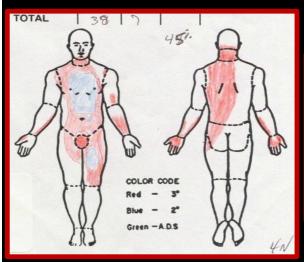
Plasma and Burns: What's Old is New Again







Jennifer Gurney, MD FACS
COL, MC, US Army
STRAC Whole Blood Summit
15 July 2025









Disclosures

The following are the private views of the author and are not intended as official policy of the Department of the Army, the Defense Health Agency, or the Department of Defense.

No financial disclosures.

No Conflicts of interest.





Burns: Last Frontier in Resuscitation

- Variability in resuscitation practices
 - No universally accepted resuscitation strategy
- Physiologic response to thermal injury
 - Variable physiologic response
- Resuscitation morbidity
 - It's real and it's deadly
- Burn Patient Challenges with depending on environment
 - Military burn care / management of burns in rural areas

Burn Resuscitation Why do we care?







Why do we care?

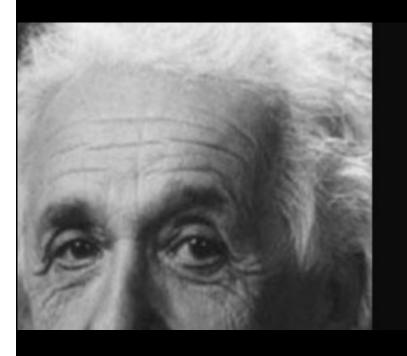
...combat, disasters, accidents



Why do we care?

the future is unknown...

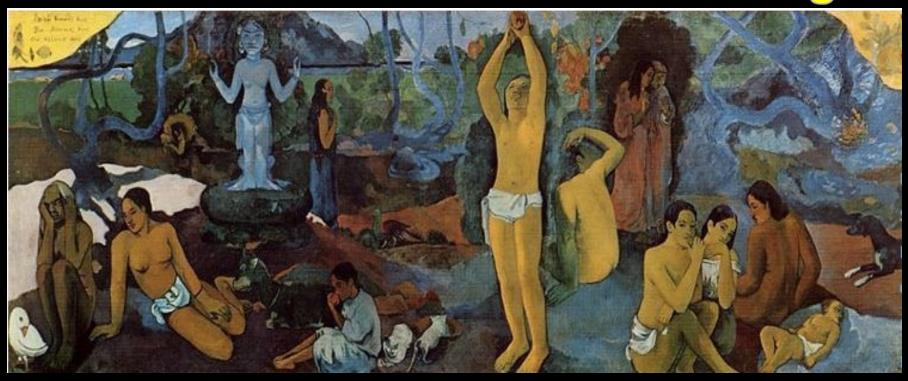




If you want to know the future, look at the past.

— Albert Einstein —

Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?



Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?



Plasma – History's Full Circle

- -1918: Capt Gordon Ward
- –1936: Dr. John Elliott introduced plasma as a substitute for whole blood "A Preliminary Report of a new Method of Blood Transfusion"
- –1941: Committee on BloodSubstitutes of the accepted LP& FDP as new therapeutics



WWII: Turning Point in Burn Care

- Pre-WWII CCC Research
 - US anticipated likelihood of war
 - Committees on Surgery & Chemotherapeutics
- WWII huge amount of burn casualties
 - Chemical debridement with pyruvic acid and starch

PRIMARY RESUSCITATION FLUID
DURING WWII FOR BURN PATIENTS?

PRIMARY RESUSCITATION FLUID DURING WWII FOR BURN PATIENTS?



World War II: PLASMA RESUSCITATION

WWII: PLASMA RESUSCITATION

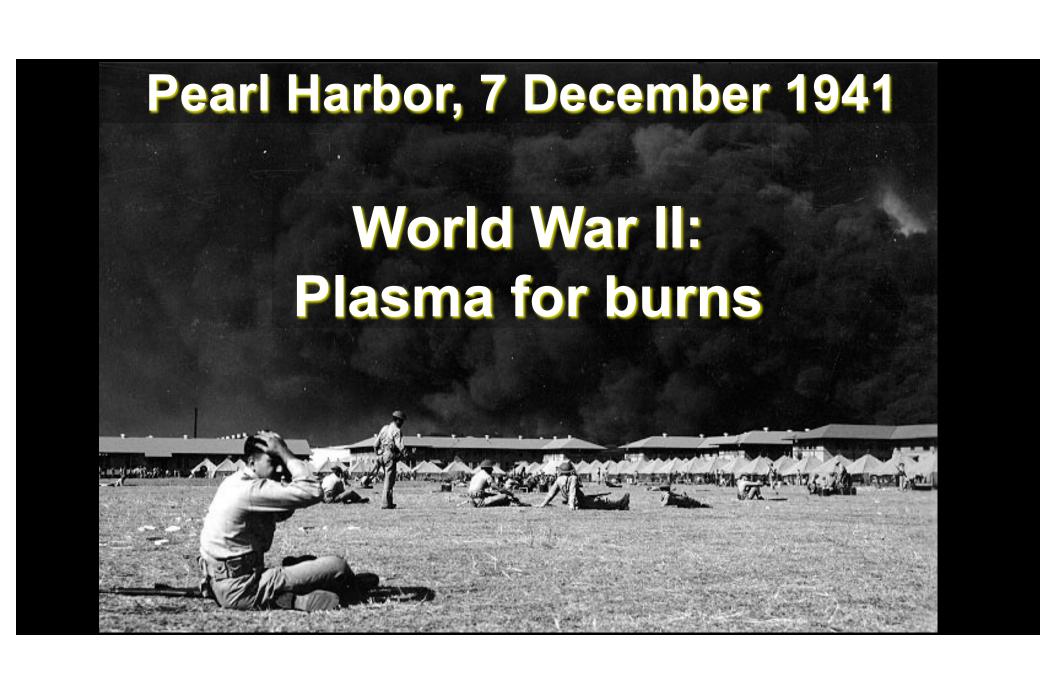
1941. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the request of the Army and Navy, the American Red Cross is collecting thousands of units of dry plasma as part of the national defense effort.



World War II: Plasma for bleeding



Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941



Cocoanut Grove Fire 28 November 1942



Cocoanut Grove Fire 28 November 1942





UNE, 1943

Medical Library

Vol. 117, No. 6

ANNALS of SURGERY

A Monthly Review of Surgical Science and Practice



Symposium on the MANAGEMENT OF THE COCOANUT GROVE BURNS MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

ANNALS OF SURGERY

VOL. 117 JUNE, 1943 No. 6



MANAGEMENT OF THE COCOANUT GROVE BURNS

AT THE

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL



FOREWORD

On Saturday evening, November 28, 1942, almost a year after America entered the war, a disastrous fire occurred in the Cocoanut Grove, a Boston night club. As a result, 491 people lost their lives and many were injured.



...and Lessons Relearned WHOLEBLOO



The case for the use of whole blood in prehospital civilian medicine

By Max Dodge, 85, NRP, EMT-P; Dominic Thompson, EMT-P;

Eric Bank, LP, NRP; Wren Nealy, LP & Andrew D. Fisher, MPAS, PA-C.

the components of blood that you'd find in

factors and planelets)-because it is normal.

Since the late 1970s, psehospital trauma

resocitation has relied on administration of

Fou're called to the home of a 38-year- blood collected from a donor. It contains allold woman who has been fainting. When you arrive, her husband tells healthy blood (i.e., sed cells, plasma, clotting you that she's been experiencing heavy vaginal blending for about two weeks. She mornly healthy blood. underwent a carsurean-section delivery of her Mids become

On exam, the appears pule and overary, with cryotalloid solutions such as 0.9% sodium chlonotable pallor of the lips and goms. Her eyes ride or 'normal' saline, lactated Ringer's, and remain closed as she stumbles over her words and barely follows commands. Her initial set of vitals are as follows:

>>Blood pressure (BP): 71/55 mmHg. 30 Heart rate (HIR): 116 beats per minute

>>Respiratory rate (RR): 28 breatle per

>>Temperature: 36°C (%6.8°F) 35Point-of-care lactate: 4.7 mmol/L.

Your patient complains of shortness of breath and appears to lose consciousness sevoral times as you lead her into your ambulance. You suspect that she's suffering from hypovulenic shock secondary to blood loss. What would be your fluid of choice for resuscitation?

Increasing numbers of EMS agencies are developing the capability to administer blood products to patients in need. Although this relatively new therapy in EMS appears to decrease mortality, there's more that can

The U.S. military has been successfully transfusing whole blood at the point of injury (POE) for severely wounded patients on the burtlefield. The Ranger Group O Low Titter (ROLO) whole blood program has allowed U.S. Army combut medics to replace the blood lost from combat wounds at the POL

Whole blood is the natural, unsepara

colleids like Indoorsethyl starch (HES).

The use of crystalloids in resuscitation stems from the Vietnam War and studies carried out in the 1970s and 1980s. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) built its contculum around the recommendation to start reconstration with a two-liter bolus of crestalloids,7 However, mary of those protocols weren't founded upon evidence-based medicine.

The last 17 years of war have brought tremendous advances in prehospital and trauma care to both the military and civilian sectors. Evidence now suggests that whole blood is a better option for truama resuscitation and can increase survival of severely injured patients,1 1

In today's EMS setting, it's uncommon for ground EMS services to carry and use blood

PERSONAL STATE AME \$1



RESUSCITATION AND SEDATION OF PATIENTS WITH BURNS WHICH INCLUDE THE AIRWAY

SOME PROBLEMS OF IMMEDIATE THERAPY

HENRY K. BEECHER, M.D.

FROM THE ANESTHESIA LABORATORY OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL, AND THE ANESTHESIA SERVICE AT THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, BOSTON, MASS.

CERTAIN ASPECTS of the Cocoanut Grove disaster are characteristic of conditions encountered in most conflagrations of the flash-burn type. In

- Dr. HK Beecher from Mass General Hospital:
 - 75 ml of plasma and 75 ml of isotonic crystalloid solution per % TBSA, with one-half given over the first 8 hours, and one-half over the second 16 hours

The 1970's



Crystalloid, Component Therapy ...and Disco



Resuscitation of the Interstitial Space

FLUID AND ELECTROLYTE BALANCE IN BURNS

Capt. Eric Reiss, Lieut. Jerry A. Stirman, Major Curtis P. Artz, Capt. John H. Davis and Col. William H. Amspacher, (MC), U. S. Army

THE BURN PATIENT:

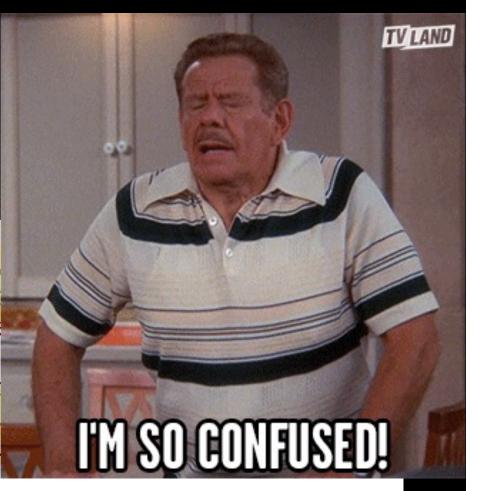
I. INITIAL CARE

BASIL A. PRUITT, JR., M.D.

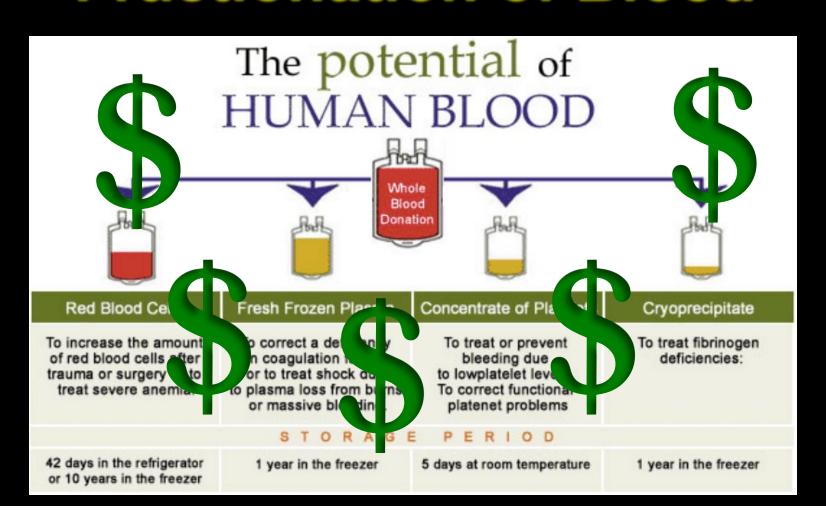
kins,³² Cope and Moore,³³ Evans et al.³⁴ and the group at Brooke Army Medical Center,³⁵ a plasma volume deficit was found to be the central feature of burn shock and several formulas for predicting postburn fluid replacement needs have been advanced. In recent years, 2 additional formulas for estimating postburn resuscitation fluid needs have been proposed; they recommend, respectively, the use of greater volumes of balanced salt solution and of more concentrated salt solutions than the earlier formulas.^{36, 37} (Table 1).

Resuscitationusing salt water

kins,³² Cope and Moore,³³ Evans et Army Medical Center,³⁵ a plasma ver the central feature of burn show predicting postburn fluid replacement In recent years, 2 additional form resuscitation fluid needs have been respectively, the use of greater volutional of more concentrated salt solutlas.^{36, 37} (Table 1).



Fractionation of Blood



Resuscitation in the 1970s

CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE Copyright © 1976 by The Williams & Wilkins Co. Vol. 4, No. 2 Printed in U.S.A.

Fluid resuscitation following injury: rationale for the use of balanced salt solutions

CHARLES J. CARRICO, MD; PETER C. CANIZARO, MD; G. TOM SHIRES, MD

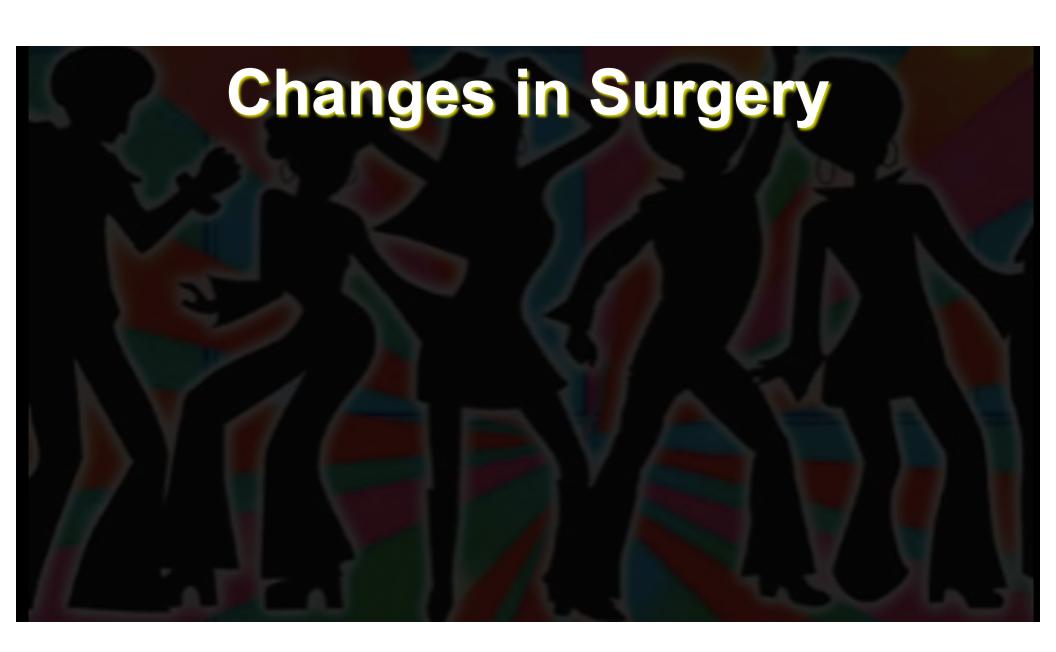
In summary, a plan for initial resuscitation of patients in hemorrhagic shock has been described which is based on physiological replacement of interstitial fluid loss. This approach when used rationally appears to be the perferable method for the management of the injured patient in hemorrhage.

Resuscitation of the Interstitial Space

Randomized Trial of Efficacy of Crystalloid and Colloid Resuscitation on Hemodynamic Response and Lung Water Following Thermal Injury

CLEON W. GOODWIN, M.D., JAMES DORETHY, M.D., VICTOR LAM, M.D., BASIL A. PRUITT, JR., M.D.

water. Although the numbers of patients in each treatment group are insufficient for statistical analysis at this time, the raw mortality data suggest that the addition of colloid to crystalloid resuscitation solutions may have later deleterious effects. When utilized according to the above described resuscitation guidelines, crystalloid solutions appear to be the preferred fluid for the treatment of acutely burned patients.



A NEW CONCEPT IN THE EARLY EXCISION AND IMMEDIATE GRAFTING OF BURNS

Vol. 10, No. 12 Printed in U.S.A. ZORA JANŽEKOVIČ, M.D. Maribor, Yugoslavia

THE JOURNAL OF TRAUMA Copyright © 1970 by The Williams & Wilkins Co.



How does practice change?

...examine history

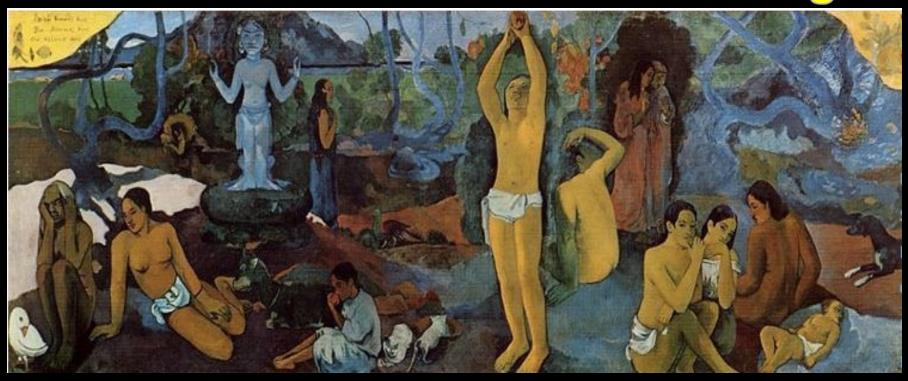
Surgical: Early Excision and Grafting

- ✓ Readily adopted once clinical benefit was realized
- ✓ One of the most critical advances in modern burn care

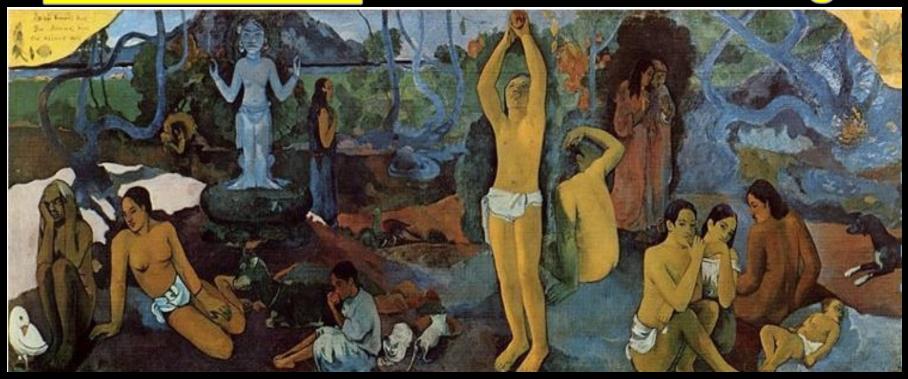
Resuscitation: Components & Crystalloid

- ✓ FFP safer and longer shelf life; but not adopted by burn community
- ✓ Whole Blood resuscitation mostly abandoned
- ✓ Crystalloid was King

Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?



Where Do We Come From? Wheelertow Where Are We Going?



The hallmark of acute burn management is fluid re management

"Fluid resuscitation AND edema management plan"



The massive fluids lost during burn shock go into the 'third space' and cause edema



"Fluid resuscitation AND edema management plan"

 Amount of fluids is based on TBSA / burn size

 Important to be as accurate as possible with burn size estimate!



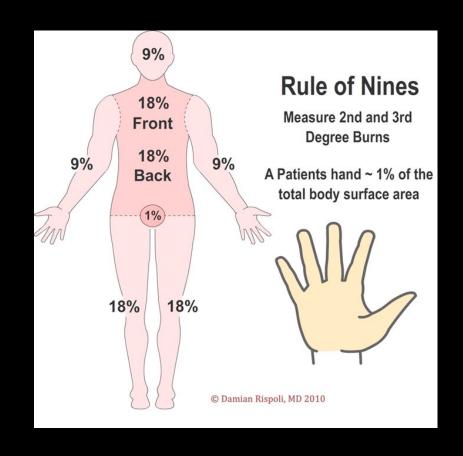
Burn Wound Injury Assessment

Define the extent of Burn Wound

> Depth and Surface Area

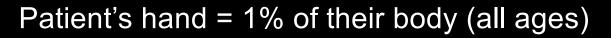
% TBSA = $2^{nd} + 3^{rd}$ degree area

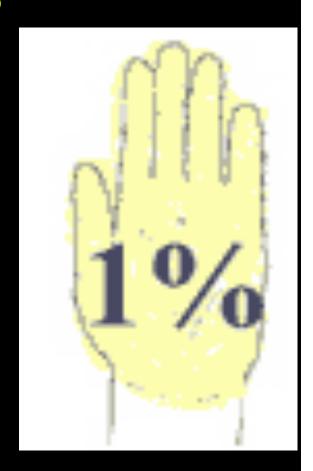
- ➤ In adults: "Rule of Nines"
- > Lund-Browder chart more accurate
- ➤ The patient's hand = approximately 1% TBSA



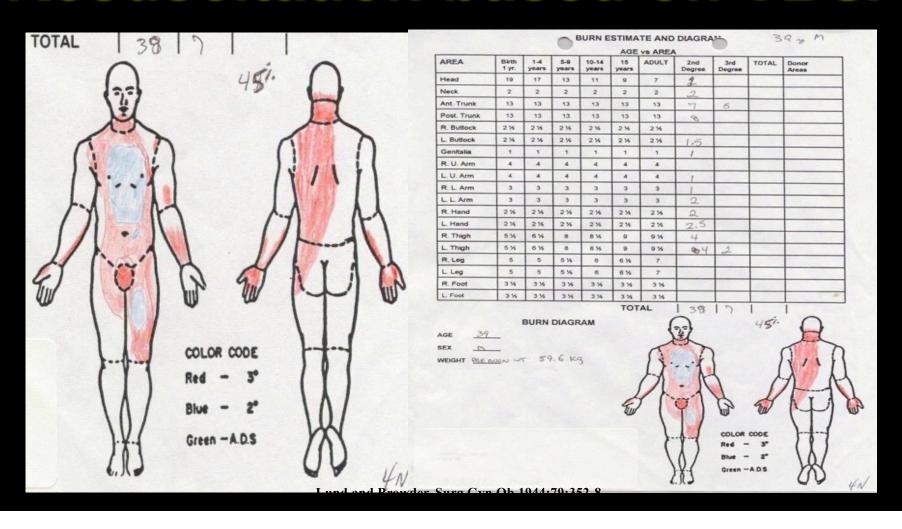
Rule of Hands







Resuscitation based on TBSA



Resuscitation based on TBSA

- Parkland: 4ml/kg/%TBSA
- Modified Brooke: 2ml/kg/%TBSA
- ABA Consensus for
 - Adults: 2ml/kg/%TBSA
 - Children: 3ml/kg/%TBSA
 - Electrical: 4ml/kg/%TBSA
- Give ½ the total amount of fluid over the first 8 hrs post-burn and the other ½ during the remaining 16 hrs



Formulas are just a starting pointrequires continuous reassessment



Burns

Volume 46, Issue 1, February 2020, Pages 52-57



Fluid volumes infused during burn resuscitation 1980–2015: A quantitative review

Alia Shah b, Irene Pedraza a, Charles Mitchell a, George C. Kramer 2

Conclusions

These analyses suggest that burn units currently administer volumes larger than Parkland formula with great patient variability. Individual patient hourly data is needed to better understand the record of burn resuscitation and Fluid Creep.

Fluid Begets Fluid

Resuscitation of Severely Burned Military Casualties: Fluid Begets

More Fluid

Kevin K. Chung, MD, Steven E. Wolf, MD, Leopoldo C. Cancio, MD, Ricardo Alvarado, MD, John A. Jones, BS, BBA, Jeffery McCorcle, PA, Booker T. King, MD, David J. Barillo, MD, Evan M. Renz, MD, and Lorne H. Blackbourne, MD (J Trauma. 2009;67: 231–237)

More Volume, More Problems

Resuscitation of Severely Burned Military Casualties: Fluid Begets
More Fluid

Kevin K. Chung, MD, Steven E. Wolf, MD, Leopoldo C. Cancio, MD, Ricardo Alvarado, MD, John A. Jones, BS, BBA, Jeffery McCorcle, PA, Booker T. King, MD, David J. Barillo, MD, Evan M. Renz, MD, and Lorne H. Blackbourne, MD

Retrospective analysis

- and Ronald G. Tompkins, MD, S.
- Modified Brooke:
 - -3.8 ml/kg/TBSA
- Parkland:
 - -5.9 ml/kg/TBSA

The Association Between Fluid Administration and Outcome Following Major Burn

A Multicenter Study

Matthew B. Klein, MD,* Douglas Hayden, MS,† Constance Elson, PhD,†
Avery B. Nathens, MD, PhD, MPH,‡ Richard L. Gamelli, MD,§ Nicole S. Gibran, MD,*
David N. Herndon, MD,∥ Brett Arnoldo, MD,¶ Geoff Silver, MD,‡ David Schoenfeld, PhD,†
and Ronald G. Tompkins, MD, ScD#

- Retrospective analysis
- Increased volume of resuscitation = increased risks of complications

Resuscitation Morbidity

Over resuscitation can be **DEADLY**





American Burn Association Clinical Practice Guidelines on Burn Shock Resuscitation Journal of Burn Care & Research, 2023,

Robert Cartotto, MD, FRCS(C)*,1, Laura S. Johnson MD, FACS, FCCP, FCCM^{2,0}, Alisa Savetamal MD FACS^{3,0}, David Greenhalgh MD, FACS^{4,0}, John C Kubasiak MD^{5,0}, Tam N. Pham MD^{6,0}, Julie A. Rizzo MD^{7,8}, Soman Sen MD⁹, Emilia Main MI^{10,0}

This Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) addresses the topic of acute fluid resuscitation during the first 48 hours following a burn injury for adults with burns ≥20% of the total body surface area (%TBSA). The listed authors formed an investigation panel and developed clinically relevant PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome) questions. A systematic literature search returned 5978 titles related to this topic and after 3 levels of screening, 24 studies met criteria to address the PICO questions and were critically reviewed. We recommend that clinicians consider the use of human albumin solution, especially in patients with larger burns, to lower resuscitation volumes and improve urine output. We recommend initiating resuscitation based on providing 2 mL/ kg/% TBSA burn in order to reduce resuscitation fluid volumes. We recommend selective monitoring of intraabdominal and intraocular pressure during burn shock resuscitation. We make a weak recommendation for clinicians to consider the use of computer decision support software to guide fluid titration and lower resuscitation fluid volumes. We do not recommend the use of transpulmonary thermodilution-derived variables to guide burn shock resuscitation. We are unable to make any recommendations on the use of high-dose vitamin C (ascorbic acid), fresh frozen plasma (FFP), early continuous renal replacement therapy, or vasopressors as adjuncts during acute burn shock resuscitation. Mortality is an important outcome in burn shock resuscitation, but it was not formally included as a PICO outcome because the available scientific literature is missing studies of sufficient population size and quality to allow us to confidently make recommendations related to the outcome of survival at this time.

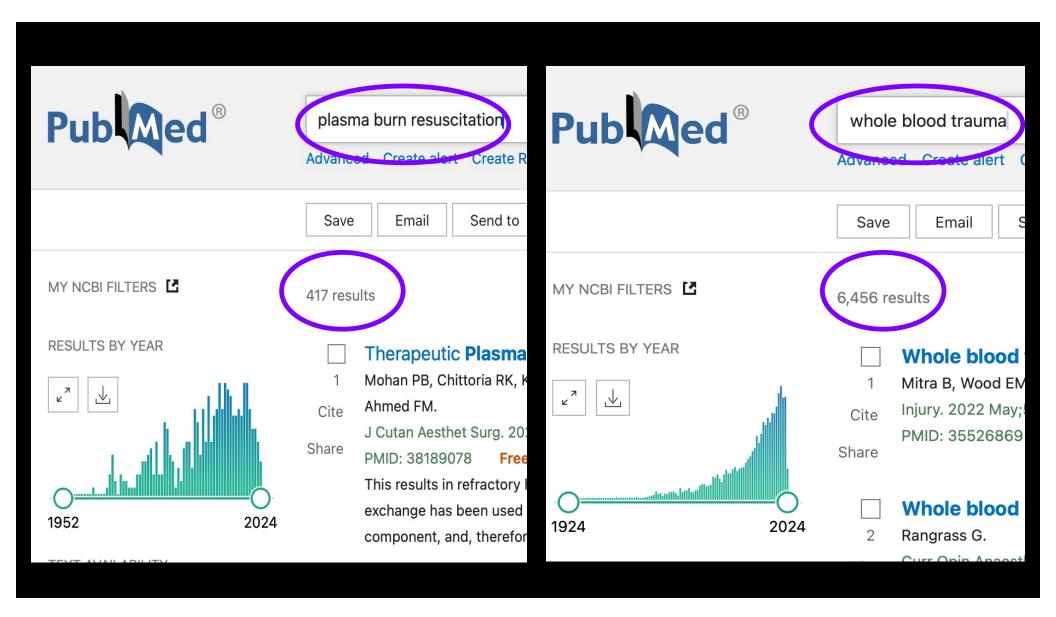
American Burn Association Clinical Practice Guidelines on Burn Shock Resuscitation

Robert Cartotto, MD, FRCS(C)*,¹, Laura S. Johnson MD, FACS, FCCP, FCCM²,º, Alisa Savetamal MD FACS³,º, David Greenhalgh MD, FACS⁴,º, John C Kubasiak MD⁵,º, Tam N. Pham MD⁶,º, Julie A. Rizzo MD⁻,8, Soman Sen MD⁰, Emilia Main MI¹,0,º

- Mortality was not used as an outcome measure
- Paucity of studies in the scientific literature with sufficient power that link resuscitation to outcomes
- FFP / plasma was not recommended for resuscitation outside of a research protocol

Resuscitation based on TBSA

- Parkland: 4ml/kg/%TBSA
- Modified Brooke: 2ml/kg/%TBSA
- ABA Consensus for
 - Adults: 2ml/kg/%TBSA
 - Children: 3ml/kg/%-TBSA
 - Electrical: 4ml/kg/%TBSA
- Give ½ the total amount of fluid over the first 8 hrs post-burn and the other ½ during the remaining 16 hrs



The Physiologic Basis of Burn Shock and the Need for Aggressive Fluid Resuscitation

Critical Care Clinics

Lisa Rae MD ^a ≥ ⋈, Philip Fidler MD ^b, Nicole Gibran MD ^c

Volume 32, Issue 4, October 2016, Pages 491-505

KEY POINTS

- The inflammatory responses to burn injury cause multiorgan failure and early death without adequate resuscitation.
- Inflammatory mediator's effects on endothelial and smooth muscle cells result in leakage of fluid from the intravascular to extravascular space at the site of the burned tissue, and systemically in all organs leading to hypovolemic shock.
- Resuscitation causes edema, which contributes to morbidity and mortality in the thermally injured patient.
- Reactive oxygen species produced by injured tissue contributes to the inflammatory response.
- Nitric oxide production after injury potentiates endothelial leak, contributing to hypotension and poor organ perfusion.

The inflammatory responses to burn injury cause multiorgan failure and early death without adequate resuscitation.

Burn injury

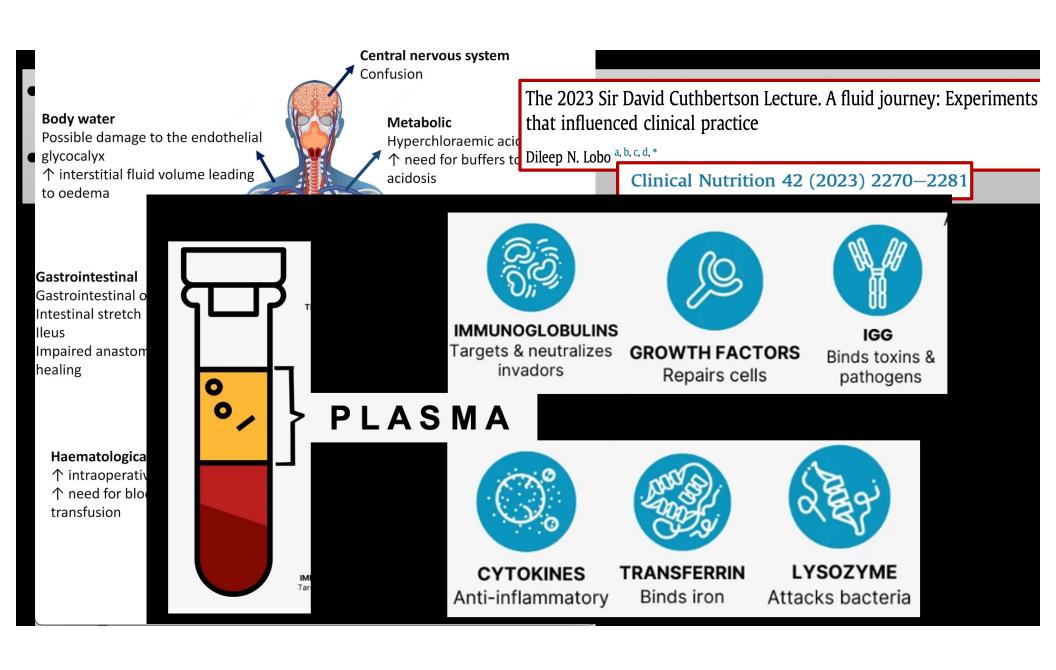
DAMPs and PAMPs released

Endothelial Activation: Crystalloid fluids can induce endothelial cell activation, leading to the release of inflammatory cytokines and adhesion molecules. This activation can contribute to inflammation and endothelial dysfunction.

Immunomodulation: Crystalloid fluids may affect immune cell function and modulate the inflammatory response. For example, some studies suggest that crystalloid resuscitation can alter the balance of pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory cytokines, potentially promoting a _{rial} more pro-inflammatory state.

Oxidative Stress: Crystalloid fluids may promote oxidative stress by increasing the production of ever reactive oxygen species (ROS). Oxidative stress can damage cellular components and activate inflammatory pathways.

Capillary Leak: Administration of large volumes of crystalloid fluids may increase capillary permeability, leading to fluid extravasation into the interstitial space. This capillary leak can Nicole S. Gibran⁷ and Sarvesh L exacerbate tissue edema and inflammation.



The Physiologic Basis of Burn Shock and the Need for Aggressive Fluid Resuscitation

<u>Lisa Rae MD</u>^a ≥ ⊠, <u>Philip Fidler MD</u>^b, <u>Nicole Gibran MD</u>^c

100

Critical Care Clinics

Volume 32, Issue 4, October 2016, Pages 491-50



The inflammatory responses to burn injury caus without esuscitation.

Inflamr of fluid system

 Resusce injured

Reactive
 respon

Nitric c sion ar

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Who is using Plasma?









HARBORVIEW MEDICAL CENTER



Texas Medical Center

OF SURGICAL

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Where is the evidence?

Plasma Resuscitation

Open Access 8

Austin Journal of Emergency and Critical

Care Medicine



Research Article

Burn Resuscitation with Fresh Frozen Plasma: 5 Years of Experience with the West Penn Formula

Jones LM*, Brown N, Phillips G, Blay BA, Bhatti P, Miller SF and Coffey R

Wexner Medical Center, The Ohio State University, USA

Abstract

Introduction: Administering fresh frozen plasma (FFP) for burn resuscitation

Open Access Original Article

Vural S, Yasti C A, Dolapçı M (January 07, 2023) Comparison of Albumin and Fresh Frozen Plasma as Colloid Therapy in Patients With Major Burns. Cureus 15(1): e33485. DOI 10.7759/cureus.33485

Comparison of Albumin and Fresh Frozen Plasma as Colloid Therapy in Patients With Major Burns

Selahattin Vural ¹, Cinar A. Yasti ², Mete Dolapçı ³

- 1. General Surgery, Giresun University Faculty of Medicine, Giresun, TUR 2. Department of General Surgery, University of Health Sciences, Ankara, TUR 3. Department of General Surgery, Ufuk University, Ankara, TUR
- Retrospective analysis of 196 patients
- Had to survive first 24h / colloid resuscitation p 24h
- Groups similar with age and %TBSA
- Groups either received albumin only or FFP only

Comparison of Albumin and Fresh Frozen Plasma as Colloid Therapy in Patients With Major Burns

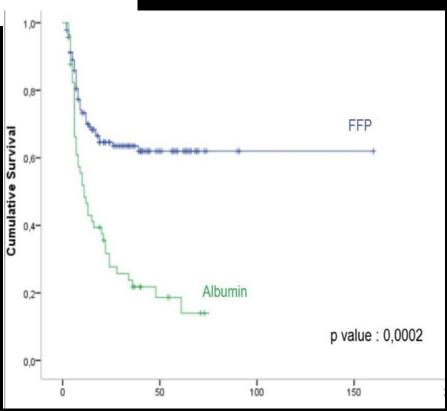
Selahattin Vural ¹, Cinar A. Yasti ², Mete Dolapçı ³

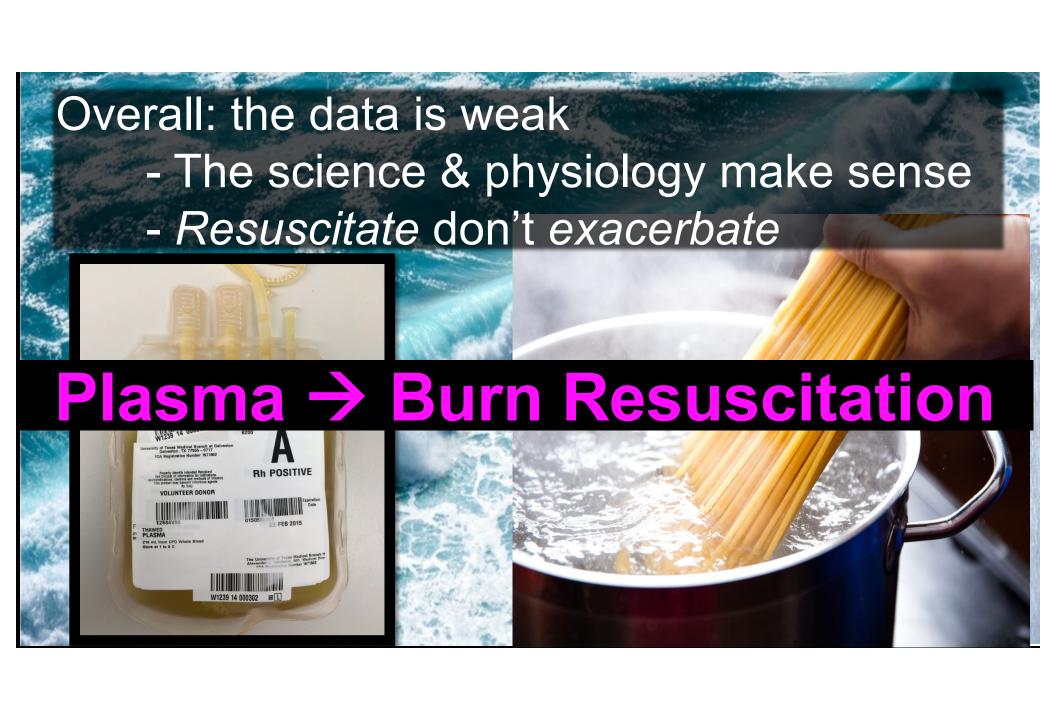
1. General Surgery, Giresun University Faculty of Medicine, Giresun, TUR 2. Department of General Surgery, University

of Health Sciences, Ankara, TUR 3. Department of General Surgery, Ufuk University, Ankara, TUR

 Age and %TBSA were independent predictors in the model and were controlled for

- Survival with Albumin: 33.8%
- Survival with FFP: 78.9%





Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?



Gauguin, 1897

Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?



Gauguin, 1897

Burn Surgery is Bloody

Whole Blood in Burn OR!



Why not use Whole Blood in Burn OR?

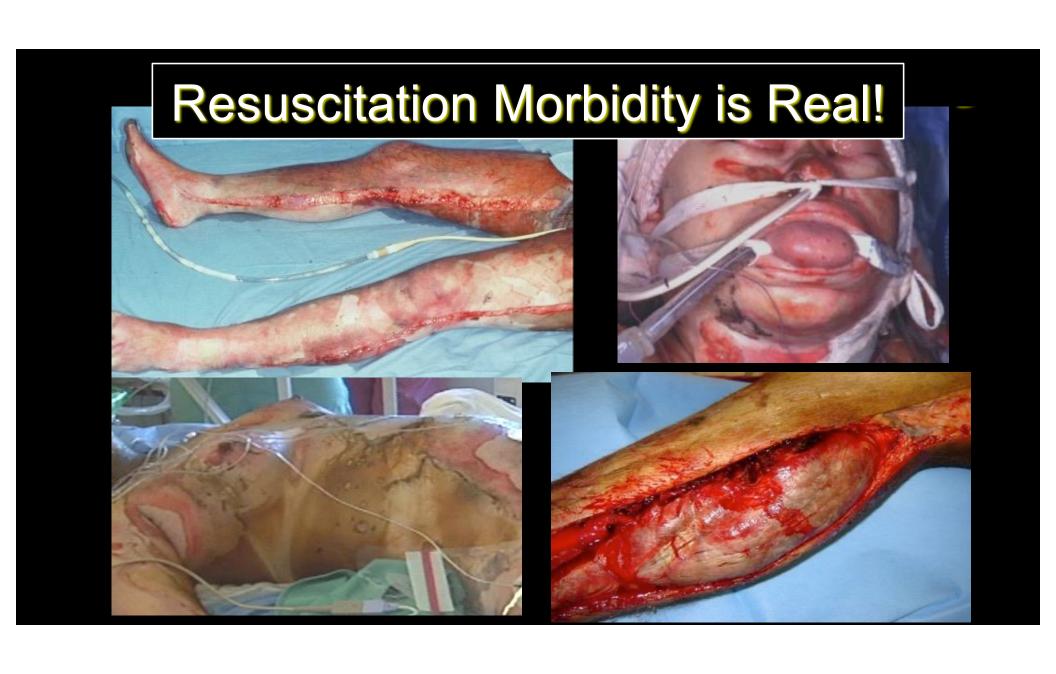




PLASMA

Resuscitate - don't exacerbate

Burn Shock = Plasma Deficit



Plasma for Burn Shock

Plasma for Burn Shock





Data for Plasma Resuscitation

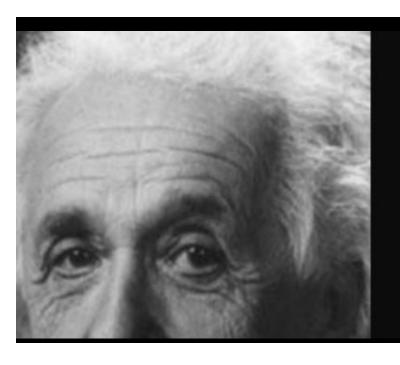
- Lowers total volume transfused
- Decreases edema and body weight
- Lower intraabdominal pressures
- Only one study demonstrating large mortality difference

Need better data and more studies!

Plasma for burn shock resuscitation: is it time to go back to the future?

Jennifer M. Gurney , 1,2 Rosemary A Kozar, and Leopoldo C. Cancio 1

TRANSFUSION Volume 59, April 2019



If you want to know the future, look at the past.

— Albert Einstein —

RESUSCITATION AND SEDATION OF PATIENTS WITH BURNS WHICH INCLUDE THE AIRWAY

SOME PROBLEMS OF IMMEDIATE THERAPY

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CERTAIN ASPECTS of the Cocoanut Grove disaster are characteristic of conditions encountered in most conflagrations of the flash-burn type. In

Frozen Plasma and Dried Plasma used to resuscitate burn patients

Cocoanut Grove Fire 28 November 1942



A NOTE ON THE BLOOD BANK

Annals of Surgery June, 1943

Lamar Soutter, M.D.

FROM THE SURGICAL SERVICES AT THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

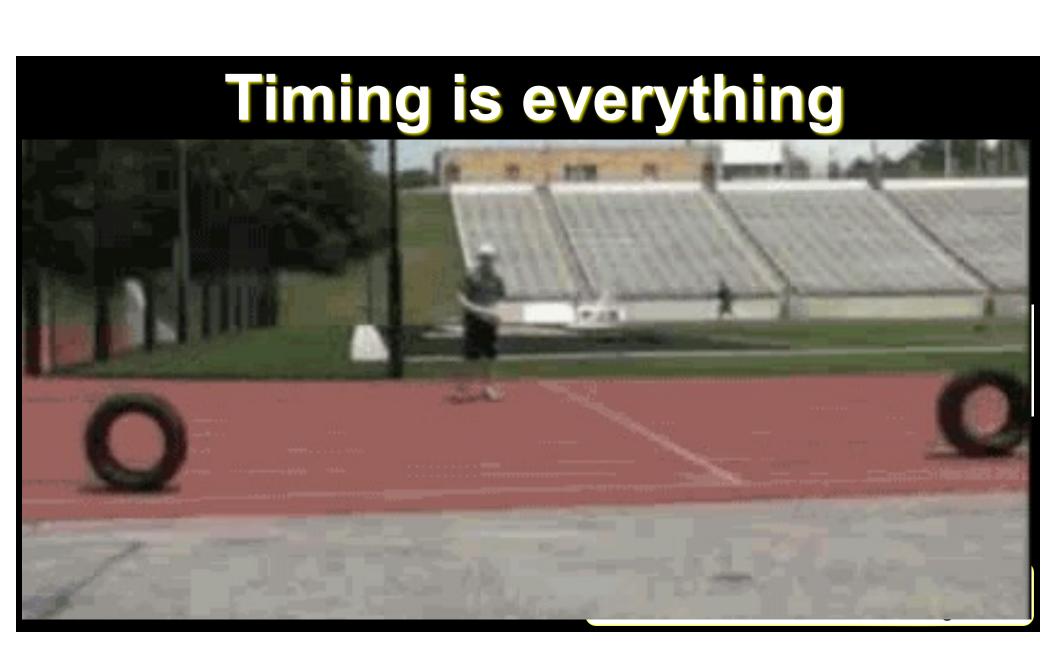
A BLOOD BANK is a requisite for the efficient handling of patients in a disaster. In the first place it is economical. In the second place, with burn casualties particularly, it is imperative to feel free to administer all the plasma necessary. There need be no restraint in the use of frozen plasma. Dried

Volume 117 Number 6

THE BLOOD BANK

plasma, with its content of mercurial preservative, offers a drawback, since, theoretically, kidney damage may result if too much is given.

Supplies on Hand.—At the time of the Cocoanut Grove fire the Massachusetts General Hospital had 391 units of sterile frozen plasma in its own bank, 38 flasks of whole blood, 106 units of dried plasma, and a reserve of 76 units of frozen plasma stored for emergency use at the Faulkner Hos-

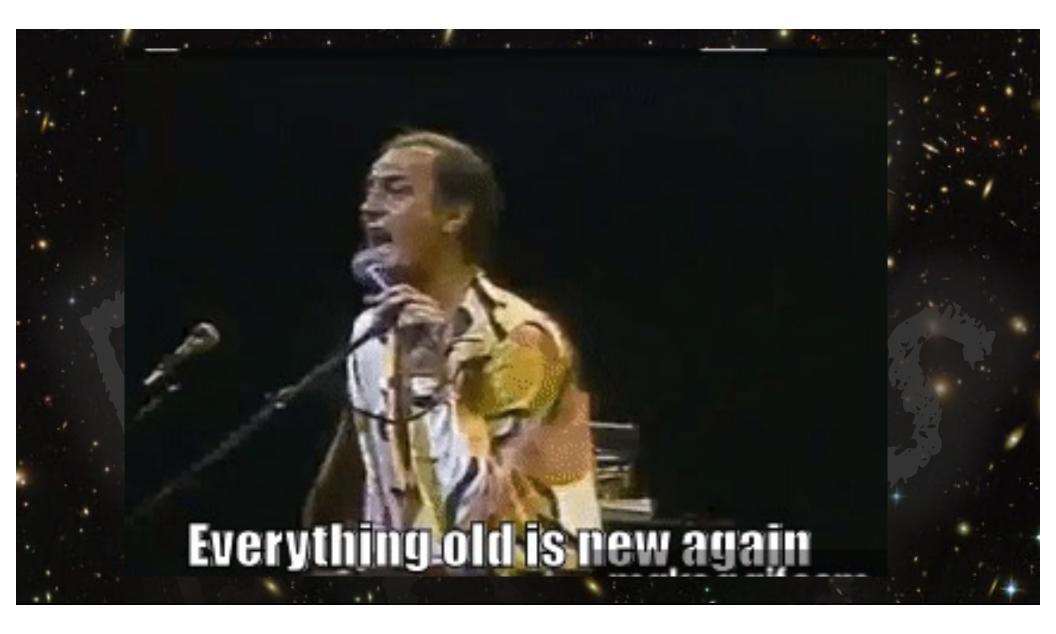


Further Studies Needed

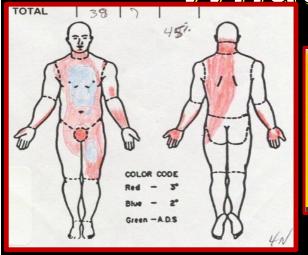
- >FFP
- **≻FDP**
- >Inflammatory modulators

- seal & heal
- ➤ Does early resuscitation NOT using SALT WATER effect:
 - ➤ Pneumonia / Sepsis
 - **▶**Catabolic state
 - > Hypertrophic scarring / Topical Plasma and PRP
- ➤ More trials comparing FFP to crystalloid / precision medicine

We made too many wrong mistakes. Yogi Berra



Plasma and Burns: What's Old is New Again



Thank you



Jennifer Gurney, MD FACS
COL, MC, US Army
STRAC Whole Blood Summit
15 July 2025





