

The Combination of Parkland Formula, Using Normal Saline, with Muir & Barclay Formula for Fluid Resuscitation in the Initial Burn Shock Period

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: Evaluation of the effects of withholding plasma during the initial part of the burn shock period (the shock period in the study is estimated as the first 36 hours following the burns) when it will be lost into the interstitial tissues through the permeable capillaries. During that time crystalloids are administered. Another objective is to evaluate the effect of administering normal saline as the crystalloid resuscitation fluid during the initial part of the shock period. **Design:** A Retrospective 4 years study compares the use of normal saline as the resuscitative intravenous fluid during the first 12 hours post burns followed by intravenous 5% Purified Plasma Protein Fraction (PPPF) during the rest of the shock period *i.e.* the remaining 24 hours, with the use of the PPPF throughout the burns shock period according to Muir and Barclay formula. **Setting:** The Plastic Surgery Department and the Department of Laboratory, Directorate General of Khoula Tertiary Hospital, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. **Patients and Methods:** The study included 2 groups of patients; Group A: Patients who received 5% Plasma (Human PPPF) throughout the shock period and Group B: Patients who received crystalloids in the form of normal saline during the first 12 hours post burn followed by plasma for the next 24 hours. Monitoring of the patients in both groups was done by using clinical signs of pulse, blood pressure, temperature and urine output and by using laboratory investigations in the form of the haematocrit value, sodium, potassium, chloride, total proteins and albumin levels in the blood at the time of admission and at the end of the shock period. **Results:** 140 patients were included in the study; 64 in Group A and 76 in Group B. There was no mortality and the vital signs were maintained during the shock period in both groups. The mean values of urine output were nearer to the normal level in Group B compared to Group A. The same was observed regarding the Haematocrit value. In both groups the mean values showed no hypoproteinaemia or hypoalbuminaemia at the end of the shock period. There was no hypernatraemia in spite of giving 150 mmol/L of Na during the initial 12 hours post burns in Group B. The mean values of potassium and chloride levels were normal in both groups at the end of the shock period. **Conclusion:** Giving plasma during the first 12 hours of the burn shock period when the capillary leakage is maximum has no significant benefit. The plasma usage can be reduced by 50% compared to the use of the Muir and Barclay Formula from the beginning of the shock period with reduction of the costs and the possibility of transmission of undetected pathogens by nearly the same value if crystalloids are given during the first 12 hours of burns shock period. The use of isotonic normal saline during the first 12 hours appears more appropriate as it maintains adequate sodium balance to correct the hyponatraemia and at the same time prevents elevation of the serum potassium during the period when potassium is released from the cells. In addition, it does not have a significant reduction on the level of the serum proteins.

Keywords: Normal Saline; Intravenous Resuscitation; Shock Period; Burn

1. Introduction

Different approaches to resuscitation of burnt patients have been used in many Burns centers. Opinions differ over whether to give colloids or crystalloids, what con-

centration of salt is appropriate, and so forth. With the recent understanding of the burns pathophysiological changes, it is logic to give the resuscitation fluids according to these changes. During the early post-burn period, an increased rate of capillary leakage meant that colloids were no more effective than crystalloids and

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may in fact be potentially harmful. There is also a breakdown of the cell membrane by the thermal injury which injures the sodium potassium pump. This results in increase of the intracellular sodium with hyponatraemia and efflux of potassium. We report our experience with the use of sodium chloride during the first 12 hours of the burn shock period, when albumin leakage through the capillaries is maximum, followed by plasma after restoration of the capillary wall integrity.

2. Patients and Methods

This 4 years retrospective study included the patients admitted with moderate and severe burns to the Burns Unit of the Directorate General of Khoula Tertiary Hospital, Sultanate of Oman. 140 patients were included in the study who fulfilled the following criteria:

- 1) Patients admitted directly with fresh burns to the burns unit and not referred from other hospitals later on.
- 2) Children with burns of >9% and adults of >15% of their total body surface area assessed according to the Lund and Browder chart.

The 140 patients included in the 4 years study were divided into two groups according to the period they were admitted to the Burns Unit. For one and half years of the four years all the patients admitted received Plasma only throughout the shock period and for the other two and half years all the patients admitted during that time received normal saline followed by Plasma. Accordingly two groups of patients were formed:

- 1) Group A: Patients who received 5% Plasma (Human PPF) throughout the 36 hours of the shock period (64 patients).
- 2) Group B: Patients who received crystalloids in the form of normal saline during the first 12 hours post burn followed by plasma for the next 24 hours (76 patients).

In Group A (The Plasma Group), Plasma was given according to Muir and Barclay formula:

$$\frac{1}{2} \text{ ml } X\% \text{ of burns } X \text{ weight (Kg)}.$$

This amount was given during each of the periods of 4, 4, 4, 6, 6 and 12 hours post burn.

In Group B patients (Normal Saline and Plasma Group), normal saline was administered during the first 12 hours post burns according to Parkland formula:

$$4 \text{ ml } X\% \text{ of burns } X \text{ weight (Kg)}.$$

Half of the calculated amount was given during the first 8 hours post burns and 1/8th was given during the following 4 hours. (The first 4 hours of the remaining 16 hours of the Parkland formula when the second half of the calculated dose is supposed to be given.)

Plasma was started 12 hours post burn according to Muir and Barclay formula:

$$\frac{1}{2} \text{ ml } X\% \text{ of burns } X \text{ weight (Kg)}.$$

This amount was given during each of the following 6 hours, 6 hours and 12 hours.

Daily requirement fluids were added to both groups of patients.

Monitoring of the patients was done using the clinical signs and laboratory investigations. The clinical signs included, the pulse, blood pressure, temperature and urine output. The laboratory investigations included the haematocrit value, sodium, potassium, chloride, total proteins and albumin levels in the blood at the time of admission and at the end of the shock period management.

3. Results

140 patients were included in this study.

87 patients sustained scald burns (62%), 46 patients sustained flame burns (33%), 4 patients sustained electric burns (3%) while 3 patients sustained chemical burns (2%) as shown in **Figure 1**.

The percentage of the burnt area to the total body surface area ranged between 9% - 90% with a mean value of 24.9%.

The number of children and adults and also the gender in each group are shown in **Table 1**.

The mean age in Group A was 17.8 years (Range from 9 months to 57 years) while in Group B it was 15.05 years (Range from 8 months to 61 years).

There was no mortality during the shock period in both groups.

The clinical evaluation showed that the vital signs were maintained in both groups. There was no significant difference in mean values of the heart rate in both groups. In children, it was 121/min. in Group A and 119.3/min. in Group B while in adults it was 88.3/min. in Group A and 89.5/min. in Group B.

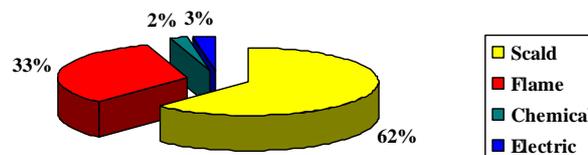


Figure 1. The percentage of the types of burns.

Table 1. The distribution of children and adults in each group and the gender distribution.

	Child	Adult	Male	Female
Group A Plasma	37	27	41	23
Group B N. S. & Plasma	48	28	49	27
Total	85	55	90	50

The mean values of the blood pressure in both groups showed also no significant difference. In children, it was 107/52 mmHg in Group A and 109/57 mmHg in Group B while in adults it was 130/65 mmHg in Group A and 125/62 mmHg in Group B.

The mean values of the temperature were elevated in both groups. While in Group A it was 39.4 C it was 38.2 C in Group B (Table 2).

The urine output was elevated in both the groups but it was nearer to the normal side in Group B (3 ml/kg/hr for children and 1.9 ml/kg/hr for adults) compared to Group A (3.2 ml/kg/hr for children and 4 ml/kg/hr for adults) (Figure 2).

The haematocrit values (normally mean values 38% for children, 45% for adult males and 41% for adult females) were measured at the time of admission before starting the shock period management and at the end of the shock period 36 hours post burns. The results of the mean haematocrit values measured at the end of the shock period in children and adults in both groups showed that it was nearer to normal in Group B (34.6 % in children and 43.2% in adults) compared to the results of Group A (32.3% in children and 36.2% in adults) (Table 3).

In Group A, 9.4% of the patients (6 patients) were found having hypoalbuminaemia (Normal value 35 - 53 gm/l) at the time of admission. At the end of the shock period, this percentage increased to 15.6% (10 patients). The levels were higher in Group B; 13.2% (10 patients) at the time of admission and 31.6% (24 patients) after the

shock period.

No patients were admitted with initial hyperalbuminaemia in both groups while one patient in each group had postinfusion hyperalbuminaemia (1.6% in Group A and 1.3% in Group B) (Figure 3).

The mean values of albumin were maintained within normal limits in both groups (40.6 gm/l at the time of admission and 40.3 gm/l at the end of the shock period in Group A and 39.3 gm/l at the time of admission and 37.1 gm/l at the end of the shock period in Group B) (Table 4).

The percentage of abnormal total protein levels was higher than those of the abnormal albumin levels (Normal value 60 - 83 gm/l). In Group A, 10.9% of the patients (7 patients) were found having hypoproteinaemia at the time of admission. At the end of the shock period, this percentage increased to 42.2% (27 patients). The levels were near in Group B; 7.9% (6 patients) at the time of admission and 47.4% (36 patients) after the shock period.

One patient was admitted with initial hyperproteinaemia in Group B. No patients were admitted with initial hyperproteinaemia in Group A and no patients developed postinfusion hyperproteinaemia in both the groups (Figure 4).

The mean values of total protein were also maintained within normal limits in both groups (70.1 gm/l at the time of admission and 62.5 gm/l at the end of the shock period

Table 2. The mean values of the vital signs in each group.

	Heart rate/min.		Blood pressure mmHg		Temp. C
	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	
Group A	121	88.3	107/52	130/65	39.4
Group B	119.3	89.5	109/57	125/62	38.2

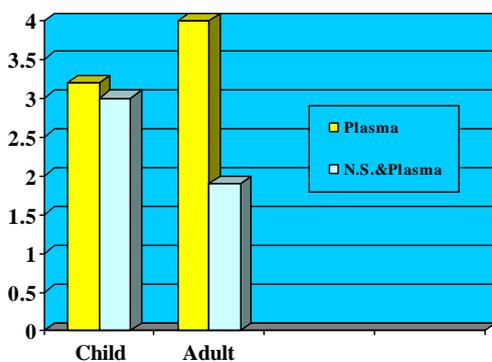


Figure 2. The mean values of the urine output of children and adults in both the groups.

Table 3. The mean haematocrit values at the time of admission and after the shock periods (S. P.) in adults and children in both groups.

Group	Before S. P.	After S. P.	Before S. P.	After S. P.
	Child		Adult	
	Group A Plasma	36.4	32.3	44.5
Group B N. S. & Plasma	38	34.6	43.8	43.2

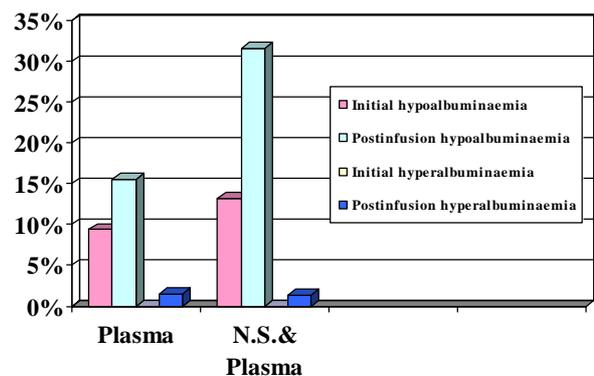


Figure 3. Percentage of abnormal albumin levels in both groups.

Table 4. Mean values of albumin and total protein levels in both groups at the time of admission and at the end of the shock period.

Group	Albumin (35 - 53 gm/l)		Total protein (60 - 83 gm/l)	
	Before S. P.	After S. P.	Before S. P.	After S. P.
Group A Plasma	40.6	40.3	70.1	62.5
Group B N. S. & Plasma	39.3	37.1	69.6	60

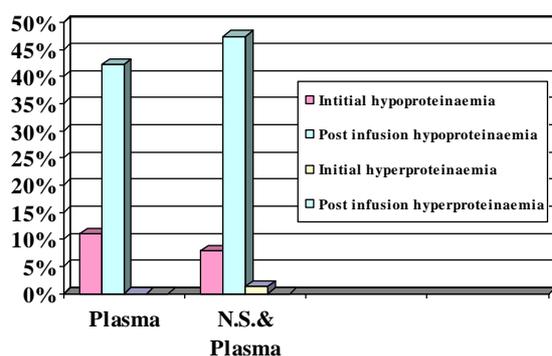


Figure 4. Percentage of abnormal protein levels in both groups.

in Group A and 69.6 gm/l at the time of admission and 60 gm/l at the end of the shock period in Group B) (Table 4).

The percentage of patients who were having hyponatraemia at the time of admission and at the end of the shock period were high in both groups (Normal values 137 - 148 mmol/L). The number of patients admitted with hyponatraemia in Group A at the time of admission was 36 patients (56.3%) and the number increased to 38 patients at the end of the shock period (59.4%). In Group B, the patients who were having hyponatraemia at the time of admission were 40 patients (52.6%). The number increased to 45 patients at the end of the shock period (59.2%). No patients were admitted with initial hypernatraemia in Group A but one developed postinfusion hypernatraemia at the end of the shock period (1.6%). No patients were having hypernatraemia at the time of admission or at the end of the shock period in Group B (Figure 5).

The mean values show return of the sodium level to normal at the end of shock period in Group A (increased from 136.4 mmol/L to 137.1 mmol/L after resuscitation) while in Group B it remained below the normal values and even reduced from 136.8 mmol/L to 136.1 mmol/L (Table 5).

In Group A, 23 patients (35.9%) were admitted with

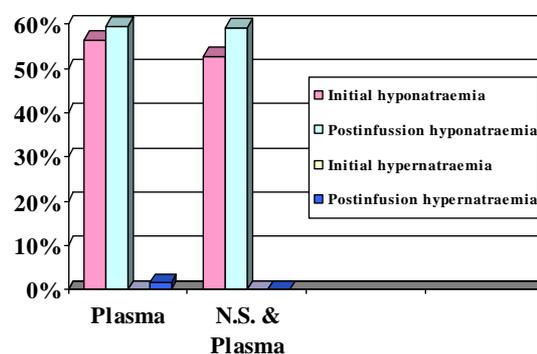


Figure 5. The percentage of patients with abnormal Sodium levels at the time of admission and at the end of the shock period in both groups.

Table 5. The mean values of Sodium, Potassium and Chloride levels before and after resuscitation in both groups.

Group	Na (137 - 148 mmol/l)		K (3.6 - 5 mmol/l)		Cl (101 - 111 mmol/l)	
	Pre Res.	Post Res.	Pre Res.	Post Res.	Pre Res.	Post Res.
Plasma	136.4	137.1	3.7	3.8	106	107.3
N. S. & Plasma	136.8	136.1	3.6	3.7	105.7	106.6

initial hypokalaemia and the situation improved after resuscitation to 18 patients (28.1%) with hypokalaemia. This percentage was better in Group B (28 patients admitted with hypokalaemia 36.8% and 18 patients had hypokalaemia at the end of the shock period management 23.9%). While in Group A one patient was admitted with initial hyperkalaemia (1.6%) and no patients had post infusion hyperkalaemia, the opposite was there in Group B as no patients were admitted with initial hyperkalaemia but one patient developed it post infusion (1.3%) (Figure 6).

The mean values showed normal potassium levels in both groups before and after the infusion (3.7 mmol/l increased to 3.8 mmol/l in Group A and 3.6 mmol/l increased to 3.7 mmol/l in Group B) (Table 5).

Regarding the chloride level in the blood, 2 patients in Group A were admitted with initial hypochloreaemia (3.1%) and this level increased to 4 patients after resuscitation (6.25%). In Group B, 7 patients were admitted with initial hypochloreaemia (9.2%) and the situation improved by the end of resuscitation to 4 patients (5.3%).

The patients admitted with initial hyperchloreaemia in Group A were 7 patients (10.9%) and increased to 13 patients at the end of the shock period (20.3%). Similarly, the patients who had increased chloride level in Group B increased from 6 patients (7.9%) at the time of admission to 13 patients (17.1%) after the resuscitation period (Figure 7).

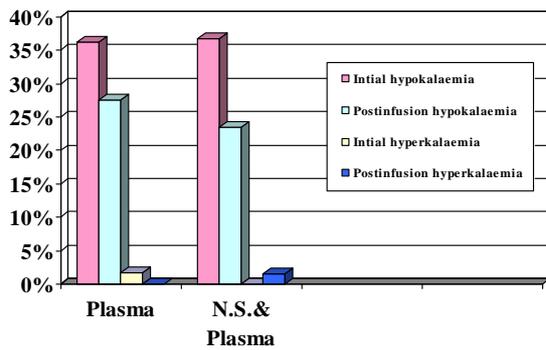


Figure 6. The percentage of patients with abnormal Potassium levels at the time of admission and at the end of the shock period in both groups.

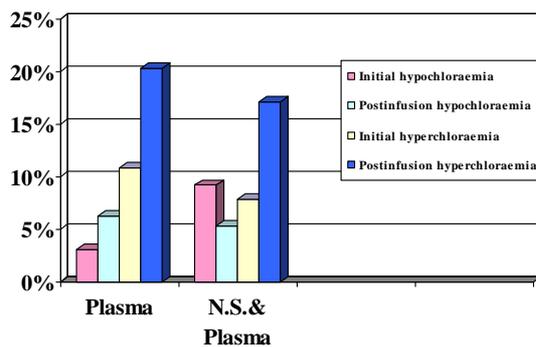


Figure 7. The percentage of patients with abnormal Chloride levels at the time of admission and at the end of the shock period in both groups.

The mean values showed maintenance of the chloride levels within normal values in both groups before and after resuscitation (106 mmol/l in Group A increased to 107.3 mmol/l and 105.7 mmol/l in Group B increased to 106.6 mmol/l) (**Table 5**).

4. Discussion

The development of effective fluid resuscitation regimens is one of the cornerstones of modern burn treatment and perhaps the advance which has most directly improved patient survival. Some of the early used regimens were introduced by Evans [1], Moyer [2], Arturson [3], Monafó [4], Shires [5], Baxter [6] and others.

The understanding of the pathophysiological changes which occur in burns was progressing through the years. Studies showed an increase in the microvascular permeability which results in leakage of fluid, electrolytes and proteins from the intravascular space into the interstitial space, impairing tissue perfusion. The loss of proteins into the interstitial space rapidly decreases the intravascular colloid osmotic pressure, and results in a reversed osmotic gradient [7]. This disturbs the natural Starling forces and leads to oedema formation [8]. Lund *et al.* claimed that a negative interstitial pressure develops in

the thermally injured skin. This pressure constitutes a strong “suction” adding markedly to the oedema generating effect of increased capillary permeability [9].

There is a considerable debate about the type of fluid to be used for resuscitation of burn patients [10,11].

Those who prefer colloid resuscitation cite the advantages of prolonged intravascular half-life, better intravascular volume effect and maintenance of plasma colloid osmotic pressure with reduction of complications of fluid overload [12-15]. Those who oppose the use of colloids warn about their extravascular distribution via increased microvascular permeability and their side effects on coagulation and kidney function [16,17]. Risk of 4% - 6% mortality was seen when colloids were used in critically ill patients [18,19]. The opponents for the use of crystalloids argue that crystalloids can cause a significant rise in total fluid volume required with increased tissue and pulmonary oedema. Those who support crystalloid use claim that although there is a risk of increased tissue and pulmonary edema, no clinically significant sequelae have been demonstrated and the cost-benefit of crystalloids outweighs theoretical advantages of colloids [20].

Considering the recent understanding of the pathophysiological changes which occur in burns, there was an increased trend to withhold colloids until capillary permeability reverts to normal, using crystalloid only till that stage [21]. Cocks *et al.* mentioned that many burn protocols restrict the use of colloids in the resuscitation of burns shock patients before 12 hours post burn to avoid the leakage of colloids from the capillaries with their harmful effects. During the initial period of burns crystalloids are given [22].

In our study we used in Group B patients only crystalloids during the first 12 hours of the burn shock period at the time when the capillary leakage is high and cannot withhold the colloids. After 12 hours colloids in the form of 5% Albumin were started for the following 24 hours.

We administered crystalloids during the first 12 hours of burns according to the Parkland Formula as it is the most commonly used formula nowadays even in UK and Ireland [23]. We calculated the amount of crystalloids in the first 24 hours of burns and half the calculated amount was given in the initial 8 hours followed by 1/8th of the calculated amount in the following 4 hours. This amount completed the first 12 hours according to Parkland formula. The following 24 hours of burn were managed according to the Muir and Barclay formula after skipping the first 12 hours of the original formula *i.e.* colloids were given according to the percentage of burns multiplied by the body weight and divided by 2 for the following 6 hours, 6 hours and 12 hours.

The original Parkland formula introduced by Baxter included administration of 5% albumin for 8 hours after the first 24 hours of the burns [6,24,25]. Modern itera-

tions of the Parkland formula have omitted the colloid bolus. This resulted in more fluid requirement than is predicted by the formula and the appearance of the phenomena of "fluid creep". Use of colloids as a routine component of resuscitation of burns patients following the crystalloids showed to reduce this phenomena and reduce the complications of overloading the circulation with crystalloids to compensate for the fluid deficit and reduced the possibility of abdominal compartment syndrome [26,27]. Chung *et al.*, during the Operation Iraqi Freedom developed a protocol to utilize 5% albumin solution in any patient whose 24-fluid requirements are projected to exceed 6 ml/kg/% TBSA. This has reduced the incidence of compartment syndrome to zero [28]. Yowler and Fratianne resuscitated burned patients with albumin at 12 hours post-burn when the fluid requirements were found greater than 150% of that predicted by formula. They found that this can reduce the total fluid requirements and the burn edema [29]. In our study we started the colloids after 12 hours period of crystalloid infusion (Group B patients). The mean values of the pulse, blood pressure and urine output did not show manifestations of fluid creep. The mean value of urine output specifically was markedly above the normal range which meant adequate hydration of the patients with no manifestations of oliguria requiring additional fluid administration.

The intravenous fluid used in Parkland Formula is Ringer's lactate. Ringer lactate is the commonest fluid used on a world-wide basis [30].

Normal saline was used in Evan's formula. Intravenous input of saline was begun by Reiss in 1880 [31].

Dulhunty *et al.*, in their resuscitation of the 80 patients included in their study used Hartmann's solution (58/80; 72.5%) and normal saline (21/80; 26.3%) [32].

In our study we preferred to use normal saline and not Ringer Lactate solution in Group B patients for the following reasons:

1) Normal saline contains 150 mmol/L sodium while Ringer Lactate contains only 131 mmol/L of the sodium (the normal range of sodium in plasma is 137 - 148 mmol/l). In a situation when there is influx of sodium inside the cells with resulting hyponatraemia, it is better to supplement the deficient sodium with 150 mmol/L and not a fluid with a lower sodium level than the plasma level.

2) Ringer Lactate contains 5 mmol/L of potassium ions. The normal plasma level of potassium is 3.6 - 5 mmol/L. In a situation in which there is release of potassium ions from the cells with possibility of resulting hyperkalaemia, it is preferred to give a fluid clear from potassium during that time than to add more potassium to a possible hyperkalaemic situation.

3) Ringer lactate contains 29 mmol/L bicarbonate as lactate. Bicarbonate administration was found recently to be hazards especially if the burnt patient is developing acidosis. Bicarbonate shifts the oxyhaemoglobin dissociation curve to the left inhibiting the release of oxygen to the tissues. It may produce carbon dioxide which may cross into the cell causing intracellular acidosis (paradoxical acidosis) [33]. Another drawback in administering ringer lactate solution is related to glucose metabolism. Intracellular glucose is metabolized to pyruvate through the Embden-Meyerhof pathway of glucose metabolism. If oxygen is available, the pyruvate enters the mitochondria and is further metabolized by oxidative phosphorylation to carbon dioxide and hydrogen atoms through the Krebs cycle releasing energy. If oxygen is not available, pyruvate accumulates outside the mitochondria and is converted to lactate. Accumulation of lactate can cause acidosis [34]. On their study on 166 burned patients, Kamolz *et al.*, found that a better chance of survival occurs when resuscitation results in normal values of lactate than supra-normal values [35].

When we compared giving colloids throughout the first 36 hours (shock period) following the burns (Group A patients) with giving crystalloids for 12 hours followed by colloids (Group B patients) we found nearly no difference in the mean values of the vital signs of both groups. There was no mortality during the burn shock period in both the groups.

The urine output was elevated in both groups but it was nearer to the normal side in Group B (3 ml/kg/hr for children and 1.9 ml/kg/hr for adults) compared to Group A (3.2 ml/kg/hr for children and 4 ml/kg/hr for adults. Normal values 0.5 - 1 ml/kg/hr in adults and 1 - 2 ml/kg/hr in children) [36,37].

Comparing also the haematocrit value in both groups, the Group B patients were nearer to normal after the I. V. fluid replacement in adults and children compared to Group A patients indicating adequate hydration.

The number of patients who developed postinfusion hypoalbuminaemia was higher in Group B compared to Group A patients but the mean values of albumin were maintained within normal limits in both groups. One patient in Group B developed postinfusion hyperalbuminaemia.

The percentage of patients who developed post infusion hypoproteinaemia was slightly higher in Group B compared to Group A patients but the mean values of total protein were maintained within normal limits in both groups (62.5 gm/l at the end of the shock period in Group A and 60 gm/l at the end of the shock period in Group B). The above data showed that administering crystalloids followed by colloids did not result in hypoalbuminaemia or hypoproteinaemia according to the mean

values.

In spite of administering 150 mmol/L of sodium in the sodium chloride solution for the initial 12 hours of resuscitation (Group B patients), no patients developed post-infusion hypernatraemia. At the same time the mean values of sodium postinfusion in Group B were even below the normal level compared to Group A patients which were within the normal range. These data show that administering sodium chloride does not cause hypernatraemia.

In spite of administering no potassium ions during the first 12 hours post burn in Group B patients, the percentage of patients who developed postinfusion hypokalaemia in this group was less than those in Group A. One patient in Group B developed post infusion hyperkalaemia. The mean values in both groups show normal levels of potassium at the end of the shock period in both groups.

In spite of administering 150 mmol/L of chloride in the sodium chloride solution for the initial 12 hours of resuscitation (Group B patients), the percentage of patients who developed postinfusion hyperchloraemia was less than those in Group A. The mean values showed maintenance of the chloride levels within normal range in both groups before and after resuscitation.

5. Conclusions

Using Normal Saline in the initial part of the burn shock period is consistent with the understanding of the pathophysiology of burns and the changes that occur during its phases.

Withholding plasma during the first 12 hours when the capillary leakage is maximum will reduce the loss of albumin into the interstitial space.

The use of isotonic normal saline during the first 12 hours appears more appropriate as it maintains adequate sodium balance and prevents elevation of the serum potassium. In addition, there was no significant reduction in the level of serum proteins.

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