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Title: Early detection of pneumonia as a risk factor for mortality in burned patients in Menoufiya University Hospital

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Body: Background Pneumonia is common among critically ill burned patients. It is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in burn victims. Prediction of mortality in severely burned patient remains unreliable. Objective: The aim of this research is to study the incidence, early diagnosis and management of nosocomial pneumonia and to discuss the relationship between pneumonia and death in burn patients. Methods This study was carried out on 80 burn patients (35 males and 45 females) admitted to Menoufiya University Hospital Burn Center and Chest Department (Egypt) from September 2011 to Mars 2012. Results Our study found an overall burn patient mortality rate of 26.25 %(21/80). The incidence of pneumonia was 15% (12/80). The mortality rate among patients of pneumonia was 50% (6/12) compared with 22 %(15/68) for those without pneumonia. The pneumonia was two times higher in the subset of patients with inhalation injury compared with group of patients without inhalation injury (P< 0.001).It was found that the presence of pneumonia, inhalation injury, increased burn size, and advanced age were all associated with increased mortality (P< 0.001). There were attributed mortality associations with late onset pneumonia. Severity of disease, severity of illness (APACHE score), presence of organ failure, underlying comorbidity, VAP PIRO score have significant correlation with mortality rate. Conclusions Pneumonia was an important factor for predicting burn patient mortality. Early detection and management of pneumonia are absolutely essential.