

# Burns

How serious a burn is depends on many factors. These include the depth, how large an area has been burned, and which parts of the body have been burned. The things that determine how quickly a burn heals are the depth of the injury and how large the area that has been burned is. The majority of burns heal well and don't leave lasting scars.

The most common cause of burns in children are scaldings, caused by hot fluids or food. Most commonly scalded skins heals within 14 days. The majority of burns that heal within 14 days don't leave lasting scars.

It is important that your child has a bandage that protects the burn and absorbs any fluid from the wound. The bandage also acts to reduce pain from the burn. Bandages that are wet, either from wound drainage (fluid coming out of the wound) or from other causes, need to be changed to reduce the risk of infection.

If your child has pain from their burn, you can use paracetamol (Alvedon, Panodil) and ibuprofen (Ipren, Brufen).

An appointment for redressing the wound will be sent to you at home and/or online. One hour before the appointment, give your child pain relieving medicine according to the doses given to you at the emergency department.

## **Come back to the emergency department if:**

- The bandages have gotten wet
- Your child has a fever over 38.5
- Your child is obviously unwell
- Your child is lethargic
- Your child eats or drinks poorly
- Your child has vomiting or diarrhea

**Children's emergency department**