

CASE STUDY A

Trauma

M.H., age 6, fell while running down stairs and hurt his wrist and elbow. His arm was scraped and bleeding slightly, and the elbow became red, swollen, and painful. Normal movement was possible, although painful.

1. Explain why the elbow is red and swollen.
2. Suggest several reasons why movement is painful.
3. State two reasons why healing may be slow in the scraped area on the arm, and two factors that encourage healing in this boy.

CASE STUDY B

Burns

While trying to light a barbecue, the propane tank exploded, burning the face, arms, and chest of P.J., age 28. He had mixed burns to most areas except for his hands and face, which were full-thickness burns.

1. Why would this be considered a major burn?
2. Describe the process taking place in the burned area during the first hours after the injury.
3. P.J. was wheezing, coughing up mucus, and short of breath. Explain why this has likely developed.
4. P.J. developed a bacterial infection on his right hand. Explain three predisposing factors to this.
5. How will this burn injury affect P.J.'s ability to work? What are some of the social needs in this case?