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One Burn, One Standard

To the Editor:

The recent development of software for supporting burn treatment has induced a rethinking of current medical documentation processes of burns, especially with respect to the Lund-Browder burn diagram. In the past, the lack of comparability, scientific evaluation possibilities, and as a consequence, missing medical evidence in this field of medicine created an increasing urgency to deal with this topic. Advanced electronic possibilities to improve the quality of burn treatment have been developed and shown in recent publications.¹⁻³

During the 2013 meeting of the national American Burn Association (ABA) the Organization for Delivery of Burn Care (ODBC) formed a task force to establish an international standard for electronic documentation of burns (starting with an electronic burn diagram). This international intention was started by a kick-off meeting of people working in data documentation. Later on, a presentation was given by members of this task force on the need for an international data-collection standard in burn care to American Burn Association members at large in the annual ODBC plenary session. Another separate session discussed practical aspects of defining such standards.

Consequentially, a mode to further this effort to an open, international audience was selected: modern Internet-based media would guarantee open access to interested parties after registration. To that end, a protected (everyone is able to read the content, one has to register to edit) wiki (www.oneburnonestandard.org) to be used to discuss the standardization concerns and issues in a structured manner was created.

To obtain the support of national and international burn societies, it will be necessary to form a common intention and to reach consensus on the outmost level. The task force “One Burn, One

Standard,” a subcommittee of the ODBC, has been formed and will provide the organizational structure of the online wiki platform and of the project.

However, with this dynamic wiki platform, it is essential we obtain active participation, feedback, and input from the burn community, as well as the developers of related software, for continued progress and success.

The second step, based on input received from the wiki, will be a definition of work packages and a prioritization of the separate projects. The aim is to define the medical and technical standards on an international level.

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