

Toward a healthcare model of psychological adjustment post-burn injury. A review of the literature.

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Aim:

This thematic review examines the variables that predispose individuals to significant psychological maladjustment post burn injury and propose a model of care designed to ameliorate the sequelae of burn injury and promote a functional reintegration into society.

Methods:

The search keywords in primary research: burn injury, psychological, psychosocial, rehabilitation, premorbid psychopathology, adjustment, reintegration, body image, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, coping. Databases: MEDLINE, Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), and the Psychological Abstracts (PsycINFO).

Findings:

Pre-burn personality and coping strategies can significantly influence long term psychological adjustment^{1,2}. Size and severity of the burn and gender has not been definitively related to post-burn psychological adjustment^{1,3}.

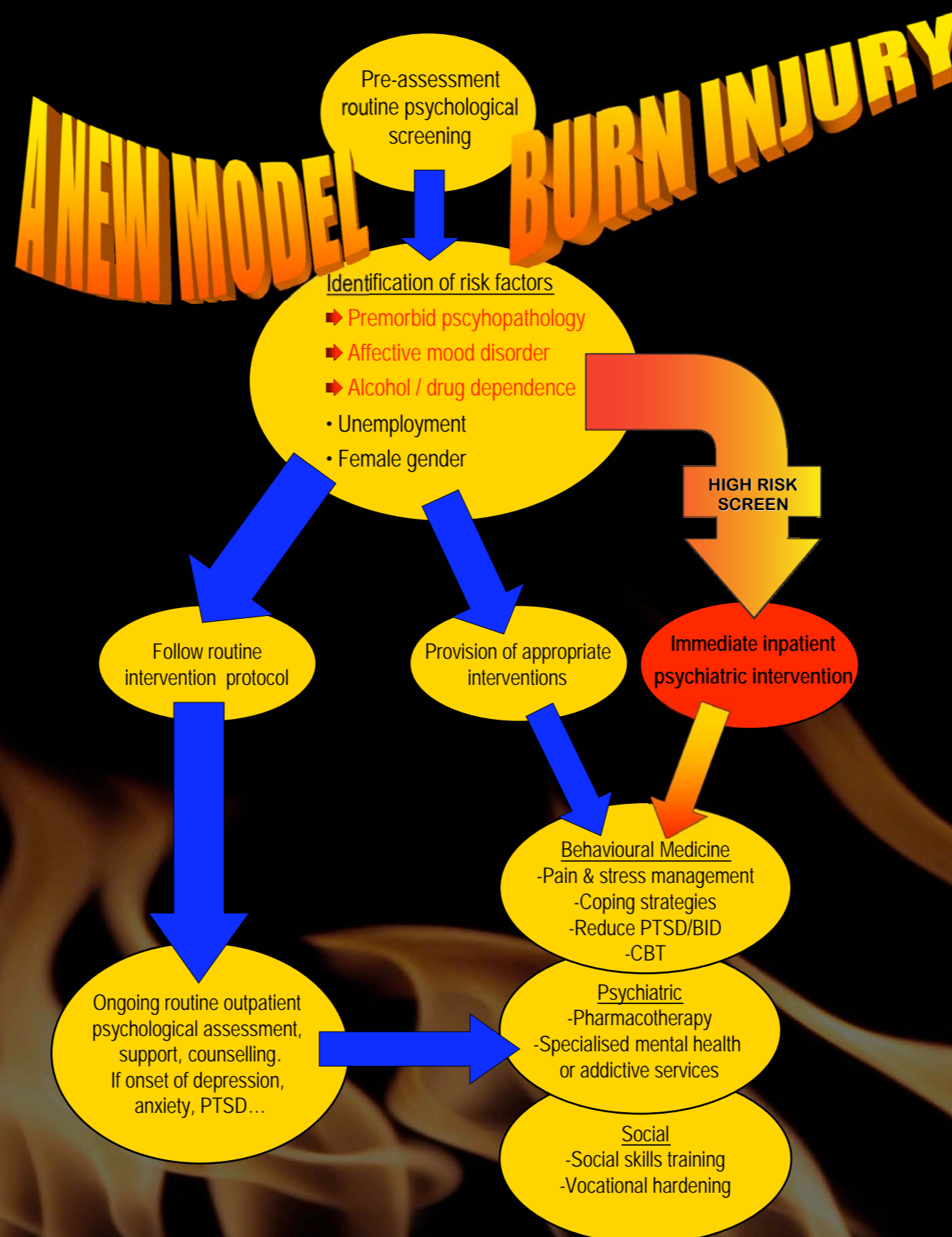
Conclusion:

The heterogeneity and comorbid conditions are key characteristics of this patient group, and that this diversity offers unique challenges for the rehabilitation professional³. Recognising these challenges is the first step to offering appropriate interventions and treatment for this unique patient group.

A new model of intervention is proposed.

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References:

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