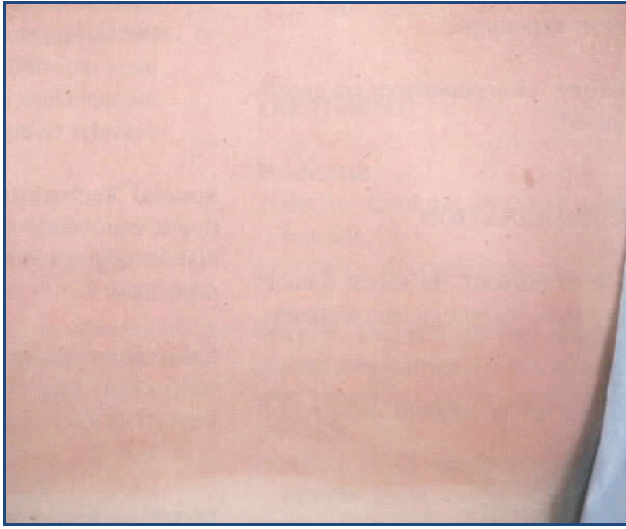


Severity of burns



First degree burns are superficial involving only the epidermis. This image shows a first degree burn to upper back. The skin is reddened but intact.



Second degree burns extend into the dermis, as is shown in this image of a burn to the left arm. Blisters are commonly seen.



Third degree burns extend through the dermis and beyond, affecting all the skin organelles. This image shows a third degree burn to right hand. This is damage to the epidermis and dermis, and the skin is leathery and dry, with coagulated blood vessels visible on the dorsum of the hand. Note the degloving (epidermal layer peeling) of the second digit.



With fourth degree burns, the damage extends into the joint, as seen in this image of a burn to the forefinger (see the charred area). Patients with this type of burn frequently require an amputation.

Source: Images are used with permission of the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX.