Determining Total Body Surface Area

Wallace Rule of Nines and Palmer Method

Rule of Nines for Adults
(Age > 14 years)

Rule of Nines for Children
(Age 1-14 years)

Rule of Nines for Infants
(Age < 1 year)

Palmer Method

Estimate from fingers positioned together as above. **Utilize the patient’s palm size, not your own.**

The Palmer Method of estimating total body surface area (TBSA) is an easy way to get a rough burn size estimate that can be used when calculating a patient’s fluid resuscitation needs.

The patient’s palmer surface including their fingers = 1% TBSA.

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