Third-degree electrical burns

Jesús A. SÁNCHEZ GARCÍA[1], **Noelia BLANCO CASADO**[2]

[1]UME AB-01. GUETS. SESCAM. [2]Urgencias, Emergencias y Cuidados Críticos. Hospital de Villarrobledo. SESCAM. Albacete, Spain.

A 43-year old man, bricklayer by profession, suffered electrocution while working in the hut that housed a high voltage electrical transformer. He presented third-degree burns with entry lesions on the back and exit lesions on both feet (Figure 1). He received regulated endotracheal intubation (150 µg fentanyl, midazolam 0.1 mg/kg and vecuronium 7 mg (0.1 mg/kg) for transfer by helicopter to the burn unit of the reference hospital. The burns were treated with hydrogel and sterile drapes.

In addition to ECG monitoring, vesical and nasogastric tubes were placed.

High voltage electrical injuries are often associated with massive tissue damage. Cutaneous lesions, despite appearances, generally constitute only a minor proportion of the tissue destruction caused by electric current in the victim.

Figure 1. Burns produced by electrical current entering the patient through his back (A) and exiting the body through the feet (B y C).

Correspondence: Dr. Jesús A. Sánchez García. Pza. de la Catedral, 6, 6º C. 02001 Albacete, Spain. E-mail: jesus112clm@yahoo.es
Received: 20-8-2009. **Accepted:** 7-9-2009.
Conflict of interest: None.