Metro North Hospital and Health Service

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

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Exercises after Burn Injury to your Face

After a burn injury to your face, your skin will tighten in an attempt to close and heal the wounds as quickly as possible. During this process it is common for skin contractures (tissue shortening) to develop. Your skin may become tight and this is likely to affect your ability to perform daily activities such as eating, closing your eyes and communicating using facial expression.

The exercises provided will help to improve the strength of your face muscles and stretch the skin on your face. This will help prevent skin contractures, reduce skin tightness and restore full movement in your face. It is recommended that you perform these exercises regularly throughout the day - **Every hour is ideal but a minimum of 4 to 5 sessions throughout the day.**

Mouth Opening		□ Top Lip over bottom		
		L'AN CONTRACT		
 Open your mouth as wide as you can. Try to fit 3-4 fingers between your top and bottom teeth. Once in that position stretch the skin further by baring your teeth (ie lift your lips away from touching your fingers Do 10 times holding for 1 minute 	 Make a big wide grin. Show as many teeth as possible Do 10 times holding for 1 minute 	 Pull your top lip over your teeth and then stretch your top lip over your bottom lip. Do 10 times holding for 1 minute 		
Bottom Lip over top	Puckering your lips	Pull back corner of Mouth		
 Stretch your bottom lip over your top lip 	Pucker your lips as if you were going to blow a kiss or whistle	 Pull one corner of your mouth back like a half smile 		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times on each side holding for 10 seconds		



Mouth Side Stretches	□ Blowing up your cheeks	Eyes Open wide		
 With your lips closed move your mouth strongly to one side. Repeat to the other side. 	 Blow your cheeks full of air and hold 	 Open eyes widely and lift your eyebrows up as high as you can 		
Do 10 times to each side holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times hold for 10 seconds	Do 10 times hold for 10 seconds		
Eyes Tightly Closed	Chin Poke	Neck Stretch Mouth closed		
	A CONTRACT			
 Close eyes & screw them up tightly, pull your eyebrows down and wrinkle your nose 	Keep your mouth closed, make a turtle neck and stick your chin forwards as far as possible.	Keep your mouth closed, stretch your neck backwards to look up at the ceiling hold at the limit		
Do 10 times hold for 10 seconds	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute		

Other Activities to assist with Face Exercises

- > Say the vowels of the alphabet slowly and over exaggerate each movement
- > Use a straw
- > Eat a large burger or take a large bite into an apple
- > Sleep without a pillow if your burn extends from your face onto your neck
- Use a lollipop or iceblock to stretch your cheeks and lips from the inside. Or simply use your tongue to stretch your lips and cheeks
- > Hold your mouth open as wide as you can when you clean your teeth
- > Use your hands to push upwards on your cheeks to assist with closing your eyes

Keep score of How often you complete these exercises (Copy this page and use a new sheet every week)

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
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