Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

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Exercises after Burn Injury to your Neck

After a burn injury to your neck, 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 with your neck such as turning your head to see behind you and driving.

The exercises provided will help to improve the strength of your neck muscles and also stretch the skin around your neck. This will help prevent skin contractures, reduce skin tightness and restore full movement at your neck. 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.

□ Neck Rotation	□ Side Flexion	□ Neck Extension		
 Turn your head to look over your shoulder. Hold for 1 minute Now turn to look in the other direction and hold for 1 minute. Make sure you keep your shoulders still while you do this exercise. 	 Tilt your ear down toward your shoulder to stretch one side of your neck. Hold for 1 minute. Now stretch toward your opposite shoulder. Hold for 1 minute Keep your shoulders still & look straight ahead while doing this exercise. 	Tilt your head backwards to look up towards the ceiling. Keep your mouth closed, chin poked out and hold for 1 minute		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute		
□ Neck Extension in Lying	□ Neck Extension in Prone	☐ Mini Push Ups		
Lie on your back with your head over the edge of the bed. Slowly lower your head backwards as far as you can. Hold for 1 minute	 Lie on your stomach resting on your elbows. Lift head back as far as you can. Hold for 1 minute You can rest in this position with your hands under your chin. 	Lie on your stomach with your hands under your shoulders. Lift your head and shoulders off the bed by straightening your elbows and extending your neck. Hold for 10 seconds then lower slowly to the bed		

□ Neck Side Stretch	□ Neck Extension in 4 Pt Kneel	□ Resting Side Stretch		
		2)		
 Grasp the side of the head with your right hand and place the other hand behind your back. Tilt your head away towards the right and hold for 1 minute Now stretch towards the left. 	Resting on your hands and knees lift your head backwards as far as you can. Hold this for 1 minute.	 1) Rest on your side with your hand under your head. Hold this for 1 minute. 2) Rest on your side with a rolled towel under your neck. Stretch your head over the towel as far as possible. Hold this for 1 minute. 		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute or use as Resting Position for 20 minutes		
□ Neck Extension over Ball	☐ Trunk stretch – No Head pillow	□ Neck Flexion		
	2)			
 Lie on your back with your head over the edge of the ball. Slowly lower your head backwards as far as you can. Hold for 1 minute. You can rest here for longer periods if you can tolerate it. 	 1) Lie on your back with a pillow behind your upper back. Stretch your head backwards over the pillow. Hold for 1 minute. Progress this by increasing the number of pillows under your back. 2) Lie on your back with a rolled towel under your neck and stretch your head backwards as far as possible. Hold for 1 minute 	Tilt your head forwards to look down. Aim to take your chin to your chest. Hold for 1 minute		
Do 10 times holding for 1 minute	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute or use as Resting Position for 20 minutes	Do 10 times holding for 1 minute		

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

Exercise	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Neck Rotation							
Side Flexion							
Neck Extension							
Neck Extension in							
Lying							
Neck Extension in							
Prone							
Mini Push Ups							
Neck Side Stretch							
Neck Extension in 4							
Pt Kneel							
Resting Side Stretch							
Neck Extension over							
Ball							
Trunk Stretch – No							
Head Pillow							
Neck Flexion							