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Curcumin: A novel therapeutic for burn pain and wound healing

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Managing burn injury-associated pain and wounds is a major unresolved clinical problem. Opioids, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), antidepressants and anticonvulsants remain the most common forms of analgesic therapy to treat burn patients. However, prolonged treatment with these drugs leads to dose escalation and serious side effects. Additionally, severe

burn wounds cause scarring and are susceptible to infection. Recent encouraging findings demonstrate that curcumin, a major bioactive component found in turmeric, is a natural pharmacotherapeutic for controlling both severe burn pain and for improved wound healing.

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