APPENDIX A: ESCHAROTOMY INCISIONS



The incisions on the extremities are placed along the mid-medial and/ or mid-lateral joint lines. The bold lines indicate the importance of always carrying the incisions across any involved joints. The incisions on the chest are intended to free up a mobile "plate" of tissue to restore adequate chest movement with breathing.

Source: Figure 26.1, p. 379, Chapter 26 (Burns). In: Anonymous, *Emergency War Surgery, 4th United States Revision*. Fort Sam Houston, TX: Office of the Surgeon General, Borden Institute, 2013.

Figure A1. Photograph of a patient undergoing escharotomy of the leg, using electrocautery. The goal is to go through the burned skin into viable tissue (i.e., subcutaneous fat).



Figure A2. Photograph of a patient undergoing escharotomy of the leg and foot, using a scalpel. When using a scalpel, there may be increased blood loss compared to electrocautery, as shown here.

