

## **Poster – Abstract**

### **The Paulinchen seminar – Results from 17 Burn Camps**

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Since 1996, 'Paulinchen – Initiative for young burn victims' has been organizing annual burn camps – the Paulinchen seminars - for children aged 0-18 and their families. During the three-day event, a team of medical and psychological experts help participants to process and overcome the trauma of their accident. A team of experts provides advice and care to the families and answers any questions they might have.

The Paulinchen seminar:

In their own program, children work on overcoming their trauma and coping with their pain and fears in a playful way with the guidance and support of remedial teachers. They get to know other burned children who are in the same situation and can share their experiences. With support from therapists, they gain confidence for the treatments and surgeries still ahead.

Parents can choose to attend various workshops and presentations, such as on compression garments, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and possibilities of plastic surgery. Participants are also given the opportunity to discuss all questions related to their child's injury with medical experts. Throughout the burn camp, the assistance of a psychologist and a pastor is available.

Each seminar is specifically tailored to the needs of the participants and may include topics such as scar massage or camouflage techniques if relevant.

Method:

17 burn camps with a total of 353 burned children between the age of 0-18 and their parents were included in this evaluation.

Results:

18% of children were not treated in a burn unit. 70% of children participated in the Paulinchen seminar either in the year of the accident or the year after. 48% of participants suffered from scalds and 52% were burned by fire. In 75 children more than 30% of skin surface was burned. 73% of families look forward to exchanging their experiences and 67% hope to find more information about plastic surgeries.

Conclusion:

Every Paulinchen seminar is organized in close collaboration with the burn units. Families are specifically interested in learning more about possibilities of plastic and reconstructive surgery and in sharing their experiences with others. New friendships have been formed, experiences were exchanged, children were referred to specialised clinics and the families gained the strength and confidence for the treatments ahead. The Paulinchen seminar provides sustainable support to the families and has become an important stage in the rehabilitation phase of burned children and their families.