Dermatomes and Rule of Nines

FIGURE G.1 Spinal nerves transmit impulses to specific areas, or dermatomes.
Appendix G

Dermatomes and Rule of Nines

1845

Front of body

- 4.5% Upper posterior trunk
- 9% Lower posterior trunk
- 9% Entire anterior trunk
- 9% Lower anterior trunk
- 9% Entire leg
- 9% Entire head/neck

Back of body

- 4.5% Upper anterior trunk
- 9% Lower anterior trunk
- 18% Entire posterior trunk
- 9% Entire leg
- 9% Entire head/neck

Estimate spotty areas by using the size of the patient's palm as 1%.

FIGURE G.2 To estimate the extent of burn, the rule of nines for body surface area is commonly used. In children: arms 9% each; legs 9% each; head 13%; trunk 18% anterior, 18% posterior; genitalia 1%.