

## HYDROFLUORIC ACID splashes First Aid procedure

Specificity of hydrofluoric acid burns:

- Two-stage evolution:
  - Painless latency period (depending on the concentration)
  - Deep burn => pain.
- H.F. acid fixes on calcium:
  - Bone damage, as the acid rapidly goes through the skin
  - Potential decrease of blood Ca in case of an extensive burn or of breathing/ingesting the acid => heart damage

### Splashes on the skin

- ✓ **Remove splashed clothes, wearing neoprene gloves**, without brushing against any other part of the body
- ✓ **Wash** thoroughly for 15 mn. Prognosis depends on how early and thorough the washing is
- ✓ Apply: **calcium gluconate gel (2.5%) in a thick layer**
- ✓ Severe burn = splashed area > 3 % of the total body surface (1 % = the whole hand, fingers included).

### Splashes in the eyes

- ✓ **Rinse** immediately with water, holding eyelids wide open, using an eye washer or tap water
- ✓ Make sure that no contaminated water gets into the uncontaminated eye (when using tap water, tilt head so that the contaminated eye is below)
- ✓ **Do not use eye drops.**

### IN ANY CASE

- ✓ Call the on-duty doctor at the Centre des grands brûlés (Conception Hospital, Marseille) at **04 91 43 58 18** for medical guidance
- ✓ Call **emergency services (15)**, even if the burn looks innocuous or painless and in case of eye contamination, breathing or ingesting, during first aid
- ✓ Call a **first-aid rescue worker**
- ✓ Give the emergency and rescue workers the **Safety Data Sheet and/or the label** (both bear the exact concentration of the acid) and **this leaflet**

## HF EMERGENCY KIT

Neoprene gloves: to be used to help the victim undress if need be

Calcium Gluconate Gel (2.5 %)

Compresses: to cover the gel layer after applying

Nylex band to maintain the compresses.

At hand: an adapted mask in case the atmosphere in the room is contaminated.