

Psychological

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A major burn is an overwhelming event, outside the normal experience, which stretches the patient's coping ability, suspends the patient's sense of safety and causes post-traumatic reactions. These are normal and usually self-limiting, receding as the patient heals. The features of this intensity of experience are of intrusive reactions, arousal reactions and avoidance reactions. Early intervention with psychology and development of coping strategies is of vital importance. The Guinea Pig Club. Sir Archibald McIndoe, 1900–1960, born in New Zealand, was appointed in 1938 as Consultant Plastic Surgeon to the Royal Air Force. He trained with his cousin, Sir Harold Delf Gillies, another internationally reputed plastic surgeon. McIndoe became world famous for his pioneering work on Battle of Britain pilots who were badly burnt. His work on these airmen, who needed several operations, and using his innovative technical and psychological methods, was the start of a lifelong service. The young fighter pilots were therefore referred to as 'guinea pigs' – thus was formed The Guinea Pig Club. McIndoe referred to his patients as 'the boys', who in turn called him 'the boss' or 'the maestro'. To this day, some of the members of the Guinea Pig Club from all over the world still meet on an annual basis in Sussex. McIndoe founded the British Association of Plastic Surgeons (BAPS). -

(b) Release of the scar intraoperatively. (c) Reorientation of the scar

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