

# 1. Assessing body surface area burnt

## 1.1 Rule of nines

The “**Rule of Nines**” divides the body surface into areas of nine percent (%) or multiples of nine percent, with the exception that the perineum is estimated at one percent (%). This allows the extent of the burn to be estimated with reproducible accuracy.

**Children** have different body surface area proportions: Use the **Paediatric Rule of Nines** and **adjust for age** by taking 1% TBSA from the head and adding ½% TBSA to each leg for each year of life after 1 year until 10 years. (Adult proportions are reached at 10 years)

Additionally small burns may be estimated by using the area of the palmar surface (fingers and palm) of the **Patient’s** hand, which approximates to 1% body surface area.

When calculating the TBSA ignore simple erythema.

## Rule of Nines

