Abstract:
An interesting case of electrical burn injury caused in a young male following usage of cellular phone with defective charging unit treated in our burns unit in August 2010. Unapproved mobile phones and accessories are hazardous and safety measures have to be followed in their usage to prevent inadvertent accidents due to defective equipment.

Keyword: Cellular phone, electrical burns, cell phone charger, AC current, DC current, malfunction, Defective equipment, Safety measures.

23yr old male reported to our burns unit in August 2010 with two week old burns which was sustained while talking over cell phone with charging unit plugged in. He got electrocuted and fell down with cell phone over his chest and sustained second degree deep Electrical burns. Patient had conservative treatment from a local practitioner and had

1.) Raw area 9 x 6 cm over (L) Parasternal region.

2.) Healing contact burns over the central palm on the lower aspect of (L) Hand.
MANAGEMENT:
Raw area over the (L) Parasternal region was debrided and skin grafted. Postoperative period was uneventful and Graft take was full. Wound over the (L) Palm was treated with dressings and both wounds healed in 2 wks.

DISCUSSION:
Cell phone charger is an DC adapter which converts the domestic electrical supply of Alternating current into Direct current which charges the battery of the cell phone. Malfunction or defective equipment can transmit the alternating current directly to the user, when the cellphone is used with the charging unit plugged in, due to electrical short circuit in the charger. Above patient used a Chinese make mobile phone with the Defective charging unit which got short circuited and the AC Current transmitted directly to cellphone causing the injury.

SAFETY MEASURES:
Malfunction and defective equipment is common with unapproved cellular phones and can cause severe Electrical burn injury and hence the following safety measures have to be followed in their usage.

1.) Unplug the cell phone immediately after charging.
2.) Unplug the charging unit from the electrical socket after charging.
3.) Use approved mobile phones and accessories.

It is better to avoid:
1.) Using unapproved cell phones (Chinese/Korean) and charging units and batteries.
2.) Using cellphones with charging unit plugged in.
3.) Using cellphones with wet hands.
4.) Giving mobile phones to children.
5.) Keeping inflammable materials near the charging cell phone.
6.) Keeping the cellphone while charging on the bed and mattress.