

**Article title: Health: from Italy to Romania, for the patients of the Bucharest fire**

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## **SERIOUS BURNS**

### **Health: from Italy to Romania, for the patients of the Bucharest fire**

Dr. Ilaria Mataro treated the burn patients with NexoBrid and helped them avoid the operating room.

**A tragic accident. A fire struck over 400 young people, gathered together for a rock concert on Halloween night at an underground club in Bucharest.** After the alarm and first aid were given, the emergency situation became clear to the rescuers. They needed help. After Romania issued the call for solidarity, **Dr. Ilaria Mataro**, among others, raised her hand. The young plastic surgeon from Naples left for Bucharest on 1 November, bringing along her professionalism, and the experience gained at the Cardarelli hospital in Naples. There, she found a drug to use specifically on patients with major burns without the need for surgery, **NexoBrid**, donated for the occasion by the manufacturer MediWound and shipped to Romania. While this tragic situation had been managed “sublimely” by the Romanian medical and paramedical staff, as Dr. Mataro tells us, managing the many patients who needed necrotic burn tissue removed in the OR would have been complex. By using NexoBrid, instead, surgery could be avoided as the drug can be applied directly by health professionals on the area that needs treatment, without having to go to the OR. In her experience in Bucharest, Dr. Mataro visited five hospitals and “in the first one, in particular, we were able to treat seven patients at the same time”. Relying on knowledge of the product’s application gained at the Cardarelli hospital with professor **Roberto d’Alessio**, Director of Plastic Surgery at the Naples facility, the young surgeon “gave a hand in applying the drug on a first patient, thus teaching her Romanian colleagues as well, who then treated—within two hours—the other burn victims hospitalised, achieving results that were otherwise impossible due to the objective unavailability of the ORs.

**HEALTH. EXPERIENCE GAINED AT NAPLES’ CARDARELLI HOSPITAL TO AID THE BUCHAREST BURN VICTIMS PROFESSOR**