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hyperbarichealth nz

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www.hboevidence.com
www.spums.org.au
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DIVING EMERGENCIES (NZ only)
0508 HYPERBARIC
0508 497372
24hrs

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

Recompression while breathing 100% oxygen has long been known as the definitive treatment for diving related illnesses such as the bends.

More recently the benefits of hyperbaric oxygen therapy have become available to patients with other conditions such as problem wounds and diabetic ulcers.

What can be treated?

The following conditions are currently recognized as indications for hyperbaric therapy:

BUBBLE INJURY

DECOMPRESSION ILLNESS
ARTERIAL GAS EMBOLISM
(DIVING/ IATROGENIC/ MISADVENTURE)

ACUTE ISCHEMIC CONDITIONS

COMPROMISED FLAPS / GRAFTS
CRUSH INJURY/COMPARTMENT SYNDROME
RE-PERFUSION INJURIES
SUDDEN SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS
AVASCULAR NECROSIS

INFECTIVE CONDITIONS

CLOSTRIDIAL MYONECROSIS
NECROTIZING FASCIITIS NON CLOSTRIDIAL
MYONECROSIS NECROTIZING CELLULITIS
MALIGNANT OTITIS EXTERNA
REFRACTORY MYCOSES
REFRACTORY OSTEOMYELITIS
INTRACRANIAL ABSCESS

RADIATION TISSUE INJURY

OSTEORADIONECROSIS
ESTABLISHED
PROPHYLACTIC

SOFT TISSUE RADIATION INJURY
ESTABLISHED
PROPHYLACTIC

PROBLEM WOUNDS

CHRONIC ISCHEMIC PROBLEM WOUNDS
DIABETIC:ULCERS/ GANGRENE/ POST SURGICAL
NON - DIABETIC PROBLEM WOUNDS:
PYODERMA GANGRENOSUM
REFRACTORY VENOUS ULCERS
POST SURGICAL PROBLEM WOUNDS

TOXIC GAS POISONING

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING (MOD/SEVERE)
CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING DELAYED SEQUELAE

OCULAR ISCHEMIC PATHOLOGY

CYSTOID MACULAR OEDEMA
RETINAL ARTERY / VEIN OCCLUSION

MISCELLANEOUS

THERMAL BURNS
BELLS PALSY
FROSTBITE

ADJUVANT TO RADIOTHERAPY

AS ADJUNCT TO RADIOTHERAPY IN TREATMENT OF SOLID TUMOURS

In addition to these there are a large number of investigational indications, in which there are theoretical reasons to consider trials of hyperbaric oxygenation, but in which evidence for significant benefit has not yet been demonstrated.

Only those conditions with evidence of benefit and acceptable risk are treated at Hyperbaric Health. We cannot treat conditions such as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue syndrome and other conditions in which clinical experience does not support the use of this treatment. We do not use hyperbaric therapy for cosmetic reasons.

What does it involve and how does it work?

We use a chamber that can accommodate up to 8 people. This is pressurized by blowing filtered air into it. Once at pressure patients breathe 100% oxygen through a hood or mask for 90 minutes. This increases the oxygen concentration in the blood and the diffusion rate into the tissues, which stimulates new vessel formation and enhances wound healing.

Patients may require up to 30 two hour sessions over a period of 6 to 7 weeks.

Who should be referred?

Any of the indications above can be assessed at Hyperbaric Health. Oxygen therapy should be considered for patients with wounds that are not healing, such as an ulcer that has been present for more than 3 months. Many of these will already have tried a variety of treatments and may have been referred to vascular surgeons or other specialists. While undergoing hyperbaric treatment wound care will be optimized and dressings may be done at the clinic. As with most treatment options early referral is essential to obtain the best results.

What does assessment involve?

Patients referred to hyperbaric health have a comprehensive history taken and full medical examination. It is essential to ensure that there are no health problems that would make hyperbaric treatment hazardous. The condition being treated is assessed and the patient is advised whether

oxygen therapy is likely to be beneficial.

Measurement of oxygen concentration in the tissues using electrode pads placed on the skin can identify areas of low oxygenation and quantify response to oxygen administration.

Is the treatment uncomfortable? Are there any adverse effects? What are the risks?

Most patients experience little discomfort during treatment. Onset of pressurization involves pressure changes like those experienced during airplane landing, and equalization of ear pressure is required. This is usually quickly learned. Breathing oxygen is indistinguishable from air. Most patients find hyperbaric therapy an enjoyable and interesting experience and it can be quite sociable.

As with any complex treatment minor adverse effects are expected and very rarely serious complications can occur. These are fully discussed with the patient prior to treatment.

Risks are minimized by the use of carefully calculated schedules for pressurization and oxygen administration. During hyperbaric treatment a qualified attendant is present in the chamber, a trained technician controls pressurization and a doctor is available on close call at all times.

How do I arrange hyperbaric therapy?

You can contact Hyperbaric Health directly by phoning **0508 HYPERBARIC** (0508 497 372). One of our medical team will be available to discuss whether hyperbaric oxygen therapy is likely to be beneficial. Referrals for assessment can be made by GPs or other specialists.

How much does it cost?

Hyperbaric treatment is expensive, but compares favorably with alternative strategies and the cost of not treating these conditions.

ACC and District Health Boards are able to fund hyperbaric therapy for approved patients.

Once we have determined that treatment is required, we can arrange funding and schedule an appropriate number of treatment sessions.



ISO 9001

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