# HYPERBARIC OXYGEN AND ITS USE IN MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Dr. John Hughes, DO Regional Osteopathic Medical Education Conference February 1, 2018



# HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

A medical treatment in which a patient breathes 100% oxygen under increased atmospheric pressure

- "Hyper" more
- "Baric" atmospheric pressure
- Hyperoxygenation "high dose"



### HISTORY

First documented use of compressed air by an English clergyman

Discovery of oxygen

Hyperbaric spas constructed throughout Europe "Air baths"

Pulmonary disease treated with compressed air in France



1891

1834

1662

1775

1800

First mobile hyperbaric operating theater

Introduction of hyperbarics to U.S. for "nervous disorders"





#### HISTORY

Largest hyperbaric chamber constructed for various maladies

100% O2 first used in hyperbarics for decompression sickness

Used for treatment of leprosy in Brazil

Used in USA to treat experimental CO poisoning in animals



1959

1938

1928

1937

1938

Used by UK to enhance tumor radio-sensitivity

Boerema proved life can be sustained in absence of blood flow





## HISTORY

1960s

Effectiveness shown for stoke, MS, MLS, brain ischemia, CO poisoning, gas gangrene, etc

Majority of US hyperbaric chambers were military

1980

99

2002

**970's** 

Hyperbaric community began to develop with various organizations and certifications

The National Board of Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Technology (NBDHMT) formed

International Hyperbaric Medical Association (IHMA) formed



American College of Hyperbaric Medicine

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#### PHYSICS

#### Henry's Law of Gas Solubility

The solubility of a gas in a liquid is directly proportional to the partial pressure of the gas above the liquid.





Increasing the atmospheric pressure increases the amount of gas that is dissolved into a fluid. (Oxygen  $\rightarrow$  Blood Plasma)

# PHYSIOLOGY

#### What Gets Hyper-Oxygenated?

- Blood Plasma
- Cerebrospinal Fluid
- Lymph Fluid

#### **Clinical Hyperbaric Pressures**

- 7 22 psi
- 10 15 normal amount of oxygen
- Bypasses body's normal system of transporting oxygen





# HIGH DOSE OXYGEN



- Classified as drug by the FDA
  - Produces physiological changes in the body
- Toxic at high doses (oxygen toxicity)

# DX:

 Disease or injury causing low oxygen levels/poor perfusion in the tissues

## **Results:**

• Enhance and speeds up the body's natural healing process

- Limits ischemic damage, cell death, inflammation
- Promotes collagen synthesis (fibroblast stimulation)
- Decreases lactate production and tissue acidosis
- Aids in oxygen dependent killing of bacteria – WBC
- Limits leukocyte adhesion and degranulation
- Decreases tissue edema



- Stem Cell Mobilization
  - Causes mobilization of
     CD34+ progenitor cells from
     bone marrow
  - University of Pennsylvania study
- Angiogenesis
  - Promotes neovascularization of poorly perfused tissue
  - Unique action

# MECHANISM OF ACTION

# POOR BLOOD FLOW = POOR OXYGENATION = TISSUE DAMAGE



## HYPERBARIC CONDITIONS





## ANGIOGENESIS

"Although there may be insufficient stimulus to initiate angiogenesis under normal conditions, by increasing the local oxygen delivery the oxygen gradient is magnified ....resulting in a stronger signal for the repair mechanism."

- Diabetic Wounds\*
- Osteomyelitis\*
- Delayed Radiation Injuries(Soft tissue/bone)\*
- grafts/flaps\*
- Decompression sickness
- Carbon monoxide poisoning
- Intracranial abscess

\*Represent 95% of all hospital treatments

- Acute Arterial insufficiency
- Thermal burns
- Crush injuries, acute trauma
- Compromised skin
   Necrotizing soft tissue infections
  - Exceptional blood loss anemia
  - Gas gangrene



# FDA-APPROVED USES





....

Conception and and and

\*\*

LOWER EXTREMITY Patients with diabetic lower extremity ulcer

Patient has failed a 30-day course of standard, conventional wound therapy

Treatment Protocol – 2.4ATA/90 minute x 20-40 treatments adjunct to standard wound care

### REFRACTORY OSTEOMYELITIS



#### Pre-Hyperbaric Wound

#### Partial Wound Closure 20 HBOT Tx 4 Weeks

Complication Resolved Full Healing 35 HBOT Tx 7 Weeks

# EXPOSED TENDON



Required incision, drainage and debridement



After 10 Tx / 2 Weeks granulation tissue



After 20 Tx / 4 Weeks



After 35 Tx / 7 Weeks

## DIGITAL AMPUTATION



Initial Visit



After 15 Tx / 3 Weeks



After 10Tx / 2Weeks



After 30 Tx / 6 Weeks

# DELAYED RADIATION INJURIES





• Symptoms may develop 3-24 months after radiation therapy

• 5-10% of irradiated patients

Soft tissue radiation injury – ulcers/non-healing wounds

Osteoradionecrosis – mandibular

Radiation cystitis

Radiation proctitis

Radiation enteritis

# VASCULAR INJURY

- Injury to the underlying vasculature and arteriocapillary fibrosis
- Tissue vascular density is greatly diminished
  - Loses ability to heal itself



#### ANGIOGENESIS IN IRRADIATED TISSUE



Response to 20 treatments @ I ATA/90 min. with 100% O2



Response to 20 treatments @ 2.4 ATA/90 min. with 100% O2

#### MANDIBULAR OSTEORADIONECROSIS



Initial Visit - Bone Exposed



After 25 Tx - 5 Weeks



After I0Tx / 2Weeks



After 40 Tx - 8 Weeks **New tissue over bone** 

### DAMAGE TO OSTEOCYTES FROM RADIATION THERAPY

Mandible has least redundant blood supply & muscle coverage

<10% of patients
receiving head & neck
radiation therapy have
 complications:</pre>

Weakens bone, predisposing to fracture

Often painful, broken down mucosal coverage

Decreases blood flow, difficult to fight infection



ORN X-ray – Mandible



**ORN** Histology - Mandible

# PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

- Significant fibrotic changes in bone and marrow
- Reduction in caliber and number of feeding vessels
- Periosteal and mucosal damage → bone necrosis

## RADIATION SOFT TISSUE NECROSIS



Initial Visit



After 20 Tx / 4 Weeks



After I0Tx / 2Weeks



After 35 Tx / 7 Weeks

## STSG AFTER RADIATION NECROSIS







#### 2 months post-surgery

#### After 20 Tx / 4 Weeks

#### 10 days following spilt thickness graft

# COMPROMISED SKIN GRAFTS



# PROBLEM WOUND WITH SKIN GRAFT FAILURE

#### Diabetic patient, 6 month non-healing wound, one failed graft







Initial Visit

25 HBOT Tx / 5 Weeks

Split thickness graft placed -100% acceptance

#### DEGLOVING ACCIDENT - FAILED FLAP - LEFT DORSAL FOOT



Initial Visit



After I0Tx / 2Weeks



After 15 Tx / 3 Weeks



After 30 Tx / 6 Weeks



#### 3 Weeks post HBOT



Final HBOT Visit

## SKIN NECROSIS - TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT







#### Initial Visit

After 10 Tx / 2 Weeks

After 15 Tx / 3 Weeks

## WHAT DOES HBOT BENEFIT?

Any kind of injury or disease in which poor tissue perfusion is either causing or complicating the situation.

- underlying vascular injury
  - edema/swelling

• trauma

# "OFF-LABEL" USES - WORLDWIDE

- Orthopedic Injury/Post Surgery
- Lyme Disease
- Traumatic Brain Injury/PCS
- Stroke Ischemic
- Cerebral Palsy
- Autism
- Bells Palsy
- Crohn's Disease/IBD
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- CRPS/RSD

- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Post Surgery Recovery/Healing from laser or traditional types of cosmetic surgery
- Arthritis (Osteo and Rheumatoid)
- Macular Degeneration
- Migraine and Cluster Headache Immune System Support
- Multiple Sclerosis (Acute, Relapsing, Remitting, Chronic)
- Osteonecrosis Avascular, Aseptic, and Ischemic Bone

Necrosis

- Non-healing fractures Non Union
- Peripheral Neuropathy
- Psoriasis
- Lupus
- Cancer w/Keto

- Promotes greater tissue strength
- More rapid tissue growth & covering larger areas
- Resulting tissue integrity is stronger
- Enhances the growth of new blood vessels





# SPORTS INJURIES



- Reduces swelling
- Blunts the inflammatory process
- Improves range of motion earlier/ PT
- Increases and enhances tissue growth – fibroblast and osteoblast proliferation
- Improves Bone Regeneration-Faster and Stronger Fracture Repair
  - Non-Union fracture, complicated Fractures, AVN

#### CASE STUDY

- Injured on January 5th 2009
- Shearing fracture, surgically repaired
- High risk for Non-Union
- "Season Ending"
- Started HBO January 7th 2009
- 30 tx over 6 week period
- Cleared to ski March 3rd 2009

"Fastest healing I've ever seen in a injury this significant" -Orthopedic Surgeon

TRIA

Vail Valley Medical Center PROCEDURE DATE: January 5, 2009 PATIENT: #411344 PHYSICIAN:



Image 1

**TV/DOCUMENTATION MED IMAGES, INC.** (47IDGP)



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



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#### **Twelve NFL teams own chambers**

- "Ward using hyperbaric chamber to accelerate recovery" USA Today
- "Football superstar Terrell Owens used hyperbaric oxygen therapy to hasten his recovery from an ankle injury so that he could play in the Super Bowl."

Fox Sports

 Cincinnati Bengals defensive tackle Bryan Robinson says "hyperbaric oxygen therapy was the catalyst in getting a nagging ankle injury to heal."

Cincinnati Inquirer

• "Linebacker Kevin Burnett credits hyperbaric oxygen therapy for helping him get back onto the playing field quickly after surgery to repair cartilage damage in his knee."

Dallas Cowboys Official Weekly



Portable hyperbaric chamber at Olympic Track and Field venue: 2012 - London

#### HBOT IN SPORTS AROUND THE WORD

China: HBOT is included as a routine therapy in sports medicine; there are now over 4000 facilities.

#### Annual Cases of Lyme Disease in the US

Number of CDC-Reported Cases CDC-Estimated Total Diagnosed Cases





# LYME DISEASE

- Fastest growing vector-borne infectious disease in the US
- Reported annual cases increased nearly 25-fold since 1982
- No tests available to prove that the organism is eradicated or that the patient is cured

# "THE GREAT IMITATOR"

- 5 subspecies of borrelia burgdorferi, over 100 strains in the us, and 300 strains worldwide
- Evades the immune system and antibiotic therapy, leading to chronic infection
- The Elisa screening test is unreliable
- Symptoms can be easily mistaken for other illnesses



- Lyme disease is known as "anaerobic": it cannot exist in oxygen
- Reduces harmful bacteria
- Herxheimer response, which includes symptoms such as fever, chills, headache, flushing, and more
  - Endotoxins that are released as the harmful bacteria dies
  - Lasts only a few hours to days





- Inflammatory reaction resulting from tissue injury:
  - Edema
  - Reduced blood flow
  - Reduced oxygen
  - Excitatory amino acids
  - Free radical damage
  - Lipid peroxidation
  - Cell death

In one month of HBOT = Significant improvement in symptoms

- 15 point increase in full scale IQ
- Significant increase in cognition
- 30% decrease in PTSD; 8/14 no longer met criteria for PTSD
- 51% reduction in depression
- 38% reduction in anxiety
- PBNR (cog., phys., emot.) +33-90%

Harch, et al. J Neurotrauma, 2012:29(1):168-185.



# **RESULTS OF LSU PILOT TRIAL**





# HBOT AND THE BRAIN



- Induces neuroplasticity
- Increases tissue oxygenation
- Generates new capillary networks
- Restores blood supple
- Increases stem cells in the blood

 2 hours = 3x amount of stem cells circulating stem cells in your blood

 20 sessions = 800% more stem cells circulating stem cells in your blood

• Migrate to damaged tissues and help them regenerate

• Essential to healing nerve and brain tissue

# HBOT AND ADULT STEM CELLS



# RECAP

100% oxygen under increased atmospheric pressure In use since the 1800's Henry's Law of Gas Solubility  $Oxygen \rightarrow Plasma$ Considered a drug **Reduces** inflammation Mobilizes stem cells Increases angiogenesis Promotes greater tissue strength Enhances the growth of new blood vessels





www.cohyperbarics.com



Treats traumatic brain injury (TBI) patients by combining regenerative therapies: HBOT, stem cells, PRP, and nutritional therapies.

www.tbitherapy.com



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