Indications for Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

The following indications are approved uses for hyperbaric oxygen therapy based on the recommendations of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society:

• Air or gas embolism
• Carbon monoxide poisoning and carbon monoxide poisoning complicated by cyanide poisoning
• Clostridial myositis and myonecrosis (gas gangrene)
• Crush injury, compartment syndrome, and other acute traumatic ischamias
• Decompression sickness
• Arterial insufficiencies: central retinal artery occlusion and enhancement of healing in selected problem wounds
• Severe anemia
• Intracranial abscess
• Necrotizing soft tissue infections
• Osteomyelitis (refractory)
• Delayed radiation injury (soft tissue and bony necrosis)
• Compromised grafts and flaps
• Acute thermal burn injury
• Idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss
Late Radiation-induced Injury
Among patients who receive radiation as part of their treatment for cancer, a small percentage suffer from the effects of damage done to surrounding tissue, often months after their radiation therapy. In these cases, tissue in the treatment area can develop open sores (ulcerate), either on the skin or internally, or can die off (necrose). A lack of adequate blood supply in the area means that the injuries tend not to heal and also makes these patients bad surgical candidates, as they will heal poorly following treatment.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy can improve the blood supply to areas damaged by late radiation-induced injury, allowing the tissue to heal. Improved blood circulation also makes the patient a better candidate for surgery to repair the damage.

UCLA's Comprehensive Resources
UCLA Hyperbaric Medicine patients benefit from UCLA's strengths as a major academic medical center. With facilities and medical experts that cover every facet of patient care, UCLA provides an ideal setting for the delivery of hyperbaric therapy. For each patient treated, the treatment team will include a hyperbaric specialist along with experts in all other relevant specialties.
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