

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON HYPERBARIC MEDICINE

Q: WHAT IS HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY?

A: HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY, ALSO KNOWN AS HBOT, HBO or HBO₂, IS A MEDICAL TREATMENT IN WHICH A PATIENT BREATHS 100% OXYGEN WHILE UNDER PRESSURE IN A HYPERBARIC CHAMBER.

Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BREATHING OXYGEN UNDER PRESSURE?

A: THE PURPOSE OF BREATHING 100% OXYGEN UNDER PRESSURE IS TO DISSOLVE MORE OXYGEN IN YOUR BODY'S BLOOD. THIS INCREASED LEVEL OF OXYGEN IS THEN DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT YOUR ENTIRE BODY.

Q: WHO REQUIRES EXTRA OXYGEN?

A: THERE IS NO BENEFIT INCREASING THE LEVEL OF OXYGEN IN THE BODY OF A NORMAL HEALTHY INDIVIDUAL. HOWEVER, THERE ARE CERTAIN MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT BENEFIT FROM INCREASED LEVELS OF OXYGEN.

Q: WHAT CONDITIONS BENEFIT FROM HBOT?

A: A DIABETIC PERSON WITH A WOUND THAT IS SLOW TO HEAL, OR SIMPLY NOT HEALING. ANYONE WITH A WOUND THAT HAS SHOWN NO IMPROVEMENT IN 4 WEEKS OF CONVENTIONAL TREATMENT. CERTAIN INFECTIONS OF THE BONE AND SKIN. SOMEONE WITH DAMAGED TISSUE FROM RADIATION THERAPY. SOMEONE WITH A SKIN GRAFT THAT HAS QUESTIONABLE BLOOD SUPPLY. BROWN RECLUSE SPIDER BITE.

Q: HOW LONG DO HBOT TREATMENTS LAST?

A: AN AVERAGE TREATMENT LASTS APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS. THIS INCLUDES THE TIME TO COMPRESS AND DECOMPRESS THE CHAMBER, COUPLED WITH THE 90 MINUTES AT THE PRESCRIBED TREATMENT DEPTH.

Q: HOW MANY TREATMENTS DOES A PERSON REQUIRE?

A: THERE IS NO MAGICAL NUMBER OF HBOT TREATMENTS BECAUSE EACH PERSON RESPONDS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENTLY. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY TREATMENTS YOU WILL REQUIRE BASED ON YOUR CONDITION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF TREATMENTS REQUIRED TO HEAL A PATIENT WITH A PROBLEM WOUND IS BETWEEN 20 AND 60 TREATMENTS.

Q: DOES MY INSURANCE COVER THIS?

A: YES, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS HYPERBARICS IS A COVERED BENEFIT BY MOST INSURANCES INCLUDING MEDICARE.

Q: HOW MANY TIMES A DAY WOULD I BE TREATED?

A: TYPICALLY, FOR MOST CHRONIC PROBLEMS, ONCE A DAY, 5 DAYS A WEEK IS SUFFICIENT. HOWEVER, PATIENTS WITH MORE ACUTE PROBLEMS CAN BE TREATED UP TO TWICE A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK.

Q: WHAT ARE HOURS OF OPERATION?

A: MACOMB/CLINTON CENTER FOR WOUND CARE & HYPERBARIC MEDICINE IS OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. AND WEEKEND HOURS RESERVED FOR PATIENTS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL TREATMENTS.

Q: ARE THERE ANY SENSATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH HYPERBARIC TREATMENTS?

A: THE ONLY SENSATION YOU WILL EXPERIENCE IS DURING COMPRESSION & DECOMPRESSION. THE INCREASING AND DECREASING PRESSURE THAT WILL PUSH ON YOUR EARDRUMS IS EXACTLY THE SAME FEELING YOU WOULD EXPERIENCE WHEN TAKING OFF AND/OR LANDING IN AN AIRPLANE.