



HYPERBARICS

A Patient's Guide to
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy



Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy: An Overview

Dear Patient:

Welcome to the West Jefferson Hyperbaric Medicine Center.

This pamphlet was developed to provide you with basic information about hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Our staff will offer you and your family additional information about hyperbaric medicine according to your specific needs and condition. Should you have questions, we welcome them and look forward to caring for you during your treatment program.

What is *Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy*?

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) is a method of delivering high doses of oxygen to the tissues of the body.

How is this accomplished?

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy is administered to a patient resting inside a pressure vessel (chamber). There are two types of chambers here at West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC). A ***Monoplace*** (single occupancy) chamber, and a ***Multiplace*** chamber.

What does a *chamber* look like?

The ***Multiplace*** chamber (which can accommodate up to 12 patients) is a large vessel made of steel and looks like a sub complete with portholes. This chamber is pressurized with air and the patients breathe 100% oxygen through clear hoods. A nurse or *observer* is also inside the chamber with the patients during the entire treatment. The patients are sitting or lying on stretchers and may watch television (which is located outside the chamber hull), read a book, or nap.



Multiplace Chamber

The *Monoplace* chamber (WJMC has two) is smaller in size and is comprised of a seamless acrylic material. These chambers are pressurized with 100% oxygen instead of air. Patients are lying on a stretcher and are able to watch television (looking through the acrylic walls) or listen to music (through the intercom system) or nap.



Monoplace Chamber

What are the benefits of *HBOT*?

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy dramatically raises the oxygen level in the bloodstream and dissolves oxygen into the tissues. HBOT also increases the white blood cells ability to kill bacteria, reduces local swelling and promotes the growth of new blood vessels.

How does a Doctor prescribe HBOT?

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy is usually offered as a referral and consultation service. A consultation appointment will be made for the patient once appropriate case documentation has been received.

How long do treatments last?

Most treatments (established by the Hyperbaric physician and sometimes referred to as a “dive”) last approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours, and may be administered once, twice or occasionally three times daily. Treatments range from 10 to 30, or more if indicated. Treatments are administered on an outpatient or inpatient basis.

Is this Safe?

Though any medical treatment has some degree of risk, the Hyperbaric Medicine Department at West Jefferson Medical Center takes appropriate steps to ensure the patient safety. Our Hyperbaric Chambers meet all Federal, State, Local and Hospital safety guidelines. All patients must be screened by a Hyperbaric physician before being approved for treatment. Treatments are attended by Physicians with Hyperbaric Medicine and Diving training and experienced Hyperbaric Technicians and Nurses.

Will my Insurance cover Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy?

HBOT is recognized by Medicare, Medicaid and other third party payers as an accepted treatment for many medical disorders.

What are the accepted indications for treatment? The indications include:

- ◆ Decompression Sickness
- ◆ Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and Smoke Inhalation
- ◆ Air or Gas Embolism
- ◆ Gas Gangrene
- ◆ Crush Injury, Compartment Syndrome, Other Acute Traumatic Ischemias
- ◆ Exceptional Blood Loss
- ◆ Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections
- ◆ Osteomyelitis (refractory)
- ◆ Radiation Tissue Damage
- ◆ Skin Graft and Flaps (compromised)
- ◆ Thermal Burns
- ◆ Intracranial Abscesses
- ◆ Problem Wound Healing
- ◆ Chronic diabetic foot wounds

What are the hours of operation of the West Jefferson Hyperbaric Medicine Center?

Monday through Friday 8AM until 4:30PM (excluding Holidays), with staff available for emergencies after hours and on weekends.



Multiplace Chamber (inside)



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Hyperbaric Medicine Center

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