

Medicare Approves Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Osteomyelitis

The FDA, AMA and Medicare support the use of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) to help heal chronic refractory osteomyelitis, and numerous private insurance companies also cover the condition. Our physician partners refer patients to HBOT as an adjunct to antibiotics and surgery.



How Hyperbarics Helps



Stimulates angiogenesis



Salvages and revitalizers damaged tissue



Stimulates stem cell reproduction and mobilization



Stimulates up-regulation of growth hormones



Enhances delivery of antibiotics



Down-regulates inflammatory genes

What Research Says

Numerous studies have documented the benefits of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) for healing chronic refractory osteomyelitis. Both Medicare and many private insurance companies pay for the cost of hyperbaric oxygen therapy to heal chronic refractory osteomyelitis.

As you know, Osteomyelitis can cause severe pain and other symptoms. It is a challenging condition to treat, especially when it is chronic. However, hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) has emerged as a promising treatment option, especially when antibiotics alone do not resolve the osteomyelitis. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy works by increasing the amount of oxygen that dissolves in the blood and reaches the affected bone tissue. This increased oxygen supply helps the body fight the infection and promote healing.

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Ways HBOT can help

1. Increased oxygen supply:

Osteomyelitis often leads to reduced blood flow to the affected bone, which in turn reduces the supply of oxygen and nutrients needed for healing. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy increases the amount of oxygen in the blood by up to 1,200%, and promotes the growth of new blood vessels, which can help deliver more oxygen and nutrients to the affected area.

2. Enhanced immune response:

Hyperbarics stimulates the immune system, which can help fight the infection and reduce inflammation. The increased oxygen supply can also help white blood cells function more effectively, which can further boost the immune response.

3. Improved wound healing:

Osteomyelitis often results in open wounds that are difficult to heal. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy helps to promote the growth of new tissue, reduce inflammation, and stimulate the production of collagen, which is essential for wound healing.

4. Antibacterial effects:

Hyperbaric oxygen creates an environment that is hostile to bacteria, as some bacteria are

anaerobic and cannot survive in the presence of high levels of oxygen. By increasing the oxygen supply to the affected bone, hyperbaric oxygen therapy can help kill bacteria and prevent them from multiplying.

5. Reduced need for surgery:

As you know, in some cases, osteomyelitis requires surgical intervention to remove infected tissue or bone. However, HBOT can help reduce the need for surgery by promoting healing and reducing the severity of the infection.

At Bay Area Hyperbarics, we have worked with referring physicians for over 24 years to help heal patients with chronic refractory osteomyelitis. Doing so, patients report higher satisfaction with their referring physician and care team, and are healed at much higher percentage than without hyperbaric oxygen therapy. We follow all standard protocols and our physicians and nurse practitioners work closely with your care team.

Please give us a call today to discuss your patients or have your care team download our patient referral form. We can get patients in quickly and get them on the road to recovery.

Research Studies

Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society

Delayed Radiation Injury (Soft Tissue and Bony Necrosis)

Hyperbaric oxygen is among the most studied and frequently reported applications in the treatment of delayed radiation injuries. This application of hyperbaric oxygen to the treatment and prevention of delayed radiation injury will be the topic of this chapter. The management of delayed radiation injury, especially when bone necrosis is present, requires mult-disciplinary management. The nature of delayed radiation injury, the mechanisms whereby hyperbaric oxygen is effective, clinical results, the effects of hyperbaric oxygen on cancer growth and future areas for research will be discussed.

National Library of Medicine

Clinical Effectiveness of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in Complex Wounds

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Enoch Huang | Dove Press

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy for the management of chronic wounds: patient selection and perspectives.

The Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society includes "select problem wounds" as an accepted indication for the use of hyperbaric oxygen (HBO2), however, the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs) has dominated any discussions of problem wounds because of the prevalence of DFUs in today's patient population and the reimbursement available for their treatment. Other wound types (eg, calciphylaxis ulcers, sickle cell ulcers, and pyoderma gangrenosum) that have well-deserved reputations as problem wounds have been infrequently treated with HBO2. While there are sound fundamental reasons why additional oxygen may have benefits in the treatment of these wounds, the challenge is finding enough high quality evidence to support routine use of HBO2.

Patient Experiences

Listen to what real patients have to say about their experiences.



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Lisa St John, the clinic director for Bay Area Hyperbarics, had chronic refractory osteomyelitis that lasted seven years with no relief. The infection induced severe fatigue and cognitive impairment that prevented her from working, and required her to sleep up to 18 hours per day. Finally, a physician recommended hyperbaric oxygen therapy with antibiotics, which after 60 treatments, healed her. Shortly after being healed, she sold her home to begin her first hyperbaric oxygen therapy clinic, which she has owned for almost 25 years!

Lisa, 44

After seven years of suffering, hyperbaric oxygen therapy healed her osteomyelitis.



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Jennifer had osteomyelitis of the lower jaw (mandible), which proved difficult to heal. Her teeth were becoming loose, and her doctor thought she would need surgery. However, he prescribed hyperbaric oxygen therapy before the surgery, and after 60 treatments, her chronic refractory osteomyelitis healed completely, regrowing bone in her mandible. Jennifer was able to keep her teeth, and was able to return to her active lifestyle, hiking regularly with her husband.

Jennifer, 68

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy eliminated the need for surgery to heal her bone infection.

Refer a Patient

Refer a patient in three easy steps.



You submit patient's information

As a provider, your office fills out and faxes back the Patient Referral Form. Have questions? Call us!



We get authorizations

We make sure the patient understands treatment and then follow the prescribed protocol to get the patient on the road to recovery!



Patient starts HBOT

Our medical staff meets with the patient to ensure that HBOT is appropriatre, and contacts Medicare or private insurance to receive authorization.





Scan for Patient Referral Form

Call Us: (408) 356-7438