

# Hyperbaric Oxygen Treats Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and Smoke Inhalation

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) is a critical treatment for carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, offering rapid and effective removal of carboxyhemoglobin, thereby restoring the blood's capacity to transport oxygen. This therapy involves patients breathing 100% oxygen in a pressurized chamber, significantly increasing oxygen delivery to hypoxic tissues and mitigating the effects of CO exposure. HBOT not only alleviates acute symptoms and reduces inflammation but also enhances cellular recovery by improving mitochondrial function. Clinical studies have demonstrated that HBOT significantly lowers the risk of long-term neurological sequelae and cognitive deficits in patients with CO poisoning. Given its efficacy, HBOT should be considered a standard treatment for acute CO poisoning.



## How Hyperbarics Helps



Helps remove CO and carboxyhemoglobin from the body, which helps the body recover from CO poisoning



Restores oxygen to tissues that have been deprived of oxygen



Delivers oxygen directly to the brain and to damaged tissues



Decreases inflammatory responses



Relieves pain

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## What Research Says

Inhaling carbon monoxide (CO) prevents oxygen from reaching the brain, heart, organs, and tissues, leading to CO poisoning. This condition can cause permanent brain damage, organ failure, and even death. CO is a colorless, odorless gas produced by the incomplete combustion of fuels such as natural gas, propane, and gasoline. Inhaling high levels of CO can quickly result in symptoms like headache, nausea, dizziness, and confusion, progressing rapidly to unconsciousness and death.

When CO is inhaled, it forms carboxyhemoglobin, a compound that impairs the blood's ability to deliver oxygen to the body. Fortunately, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) removes carboxyhemoglobin faster than any other treatment, including oxygen therapy alone. HBOT super-oxygenates body tissues and lungs, delivers oxygen directly to oxygen-deprived tissues, and alleviates pain. It also reduces inflammation in the brain and enhances other aspects of the body's healing processes, such as improving mitochondrial function within cells, which boosts cellular energy production.

The effectiveness of HBOT for treating CO poisoning has been demonstrated in numerous studies and is recommended for all acute cases

of CO poisoning.

One study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that HBOT significantly reduced the risk of neurological sequelae (long-term neurological damage) in patients with acute CO poisoning. Another study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that HBOT reduced the risk of cognitive and neurological deficits in patients with mild-to-moderate CO poisoning.

Smoke inhalation often accompanies CO poisoning and can cause additional damage to the lungs, nose, and throat. HBOT helps heal smoke inhalation injuries by delivering extra oxygen directly to damaged areas, promoting healing. Thus, HBOT can aid recovery from both CO poisoning and smoke inhalation, facilitate wound healing, and relieve pain.

If you or someone you know has been exposed to high levels of CO, seek medical attention immediately. Consider discussing the potential benefits of HBOT with a medical professional. It is crucial to receive HBOT from a trained and experienced medical professional in a certified hyperbaric facility, such as Bay Area Hyperbarics.

## Research Studies

[University of Rochester Medical Center](#)

### **Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) for CO Poisoning and Decompression Sickness**

HBOT is recognized as a critical treatment for CO poisoning and smoke inhalation. It helps by delivering high concentrations of oxygen to the bloodstream, which can rapidly reduce the levels of CO in the body and improve oxygen delivery to tissues. This can mitigate the risk of long-term neurological damage and is often used in severe cases where standard oxygen therapy is insufficient.

## Hyperbaric oxygen for carbon monoxide poisoning

Research studies, including randomized controlled trials, have demonstrated that HBOT can significantly reduce the cognitive sequelae associated with CO poisoning. One such study indicated that patients treated with HBOT had fewer neurological impairments compared to those who received only normobaric oxygen therapy.

## 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.

## 1 You submit patient's information

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

## 2 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!

## 3 Patient starts HBOT

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



Scan for Patient Referral Form

 **Call Us: (408) 356-7438**