

# Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy As A Radiation Proctitis Treatment

If you or a loved-one have received radiation therapy and have rectal or pelvic discomfort, you may have radiation proctitis. It is a condition that occurs as a side effect of radiation therapy used to treat cancer in the pelvic area. The radiation damages the lining of the rectum, leading to a range of symptoms such as rectal bleeding, diarrhea, urgency to have a bowel movement, and pain during bowel movements. Obviously, these symptoms can greatly impact your daily life and overall comfort. Fortunately, there is hope: Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) is a common standard of care for patients undergoing radiation proctitis treatment.

This is the **Patient view** of the brochure.



## How Hyperbarics Helps



Reduces pain and swelling



Salvages and revitalizes  
damaged tissues



Builds new blood vessels



Increases blood supply to  
tissues and bones



Heals infections and  
supercharges antibiotics



Produces and mobilizes  
stem cells



Softens fibrous tissue,  
which often inhibits range  
of motion



Regrows healthy new tissue



# Research shows that HBOT delivers promising results in the management of radiation proctitis treatment

Radiation proctitis treatment can destroy cancer and save a patient's life, but it also can induce secondary injuries. When you undergo hyperbaric oxygen therapy sessions, the increased oxygen levels in your bloodstream help improve the healing process in the damaged tissues of your rectum. Here's how it works:

## **1. Increases the oxygen supply to damaged tissues:**

The increased oxygen levels delivered during HBOT increase the amount of oxygen reaching the damaged tissues. Oxygen is a vital component for tissue repair, and by supplying more of it, HBOT stimulates healing processes.

## **2. Reduces Inflammation:**

Radiation proctitis often involves inflammation, causing discomfort and further damage. HBOT helps reduce inflammation by improving blood flow and promoting the release of growth factors that facilitate tissue repair.

## **3. Increases neovascularization:**

HBOT encourages the formation of new blood vessels, a process known as neovascularization. These new vessels bring in oxygen-rich blood to the damaged areas, promoting healing and reducing symptoms.

## **4. Enhances Immune Response:**

HBOT also helps strengthen the immune system, enabling it to fight off infections and promote healing. By improving the body's defenses, HBOT aids in the recovery process.

Does hyperbaric oxygen stimulate cancer growth? Some people wonder: If HBOT creates new blood vessels and stimulates cell reproduction, could it also stimulate cancer cells to grow?

Numerous research studies by oncologists and other qualified researchers show that:

- 1.** Hbot does not cause cancer cells or tumors to grow or multiply. That means that HBOT will not stimulate cancer recurrence or growth. They wrote "the conclusion in both reviews was that HBO did not promote cancer growth, and that the use of HBO in patients with malignancies was considered safe." Target Oncol. 2012 Dec; 7(4): 233-242.
- 2.** Some recent studies in mice have shown that hyperbaric oxygen therapy can reduce and even reverse the growth of tumors in the breast. At this point, more data is required to confirm such a hypothesis, but the data appears promising!
- 3.** Hyperbaric oxygen augments certain specific chemotherapy drugs, making them much more effective at killing tumors.
- 4.** Some studies show that treating head and neck radiation injuries with hyperbarics can produce a reduction in cancer recurrence. These researchers hypothesize that hyperbaric oxygen therapy repairs damaged mitochondria in some precancerous and damaged cells. This too has not been confirmed, yet data from these studies also appears quite promising.

Many referring Providers to Bay Area Hyperbarics also prescribe hyperbaric oxygen therapy pre- and post-surgery to enhance tissue and bone strength, promoting successful healing. With radiation damaged in areas such as the head and neck, 20 treatments of hyperbaric oxygen are often prescribed before surgery to regrow tissues,

bones and stabilize the jaw. After surgery, these patients are prescribed 10 treatments to complete the healing, and to prevent complications.

At Bay Area Hyperbarics, we have successfully treated patients with radiation damage for over 25 years. Hyperbaric medicine has helped hundreds of patients return to normal lives.

Most patients also tell us that hyperbarics healed their fatigue from “chemo brain” and radiation, so they could regain their previous high levels of energy. If you are looking for proctitis treatment, contact Bay Area Hyperbarics and experience our oxygen chamber in San Jose, CA.

## Patient Experiences

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

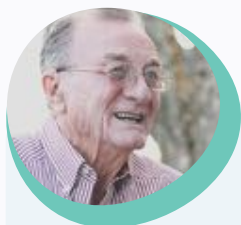


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Fiona, a lively and proud mother of five grown children and an avid gardener, had received radiation many years prior to her arriving at Bay Area Hyperbarics, that emerged as damage to her bone. It caused a severe infection in the bones in the roof of her mouth. In addition, Fiona was concerned about her low energy levels. Before HBOT, Fiona's doctors had tried antibiotics, to no avail. But with HBOT and antibiotics together, it cured the bone infection in her mouth, and healed and regrew her bones and gums. She said she also got back enough energy that she could again garden.

### **Fiona, 62**

HBOT cured a bone infection, regrew her bones and gums and helped her regain her energy.



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Howard had very painful open sores in his mouth as a result of cancer treatment. He had already lost a few teeth, and he and his doctor were concerned that he might lose more. But what worried his son even more was that Howard had lost too much weight. Fortunately for Howard, HBOT stabilized two loose teeth and healed his mouth sores. His ability to chew again then enabled him to eat enough that he returned to a healthy weight.

### **Howard, 54**

Stabilized teeth, healed his mouth sores and increased weight to a healthy level.



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Josephina, a 61-year-old woman, lived and took care of an elderly friend half the year on the coast of Oregon. She is a quiet spoken, thoughtful woman who had cancer in her mouth 18 years prior to coming in for hyperbaric oxygen therapy. The radiation that was used to treat her cancer many years before was very successful. However, she went to her dentist and complained of her tooth feeling loose. The radiation had started to damage the circulation in her mandible and her gums. Her tooth had died and her dentist wanted to remove it. Her dentist also thought that she had two other teeth that were threatened as well.

Josephina was sent to an oral surgeon who diagnosed osteoradionecrosis, which is death of the bone due to radiation injury. The blood vessels in the jaw start to die off due to radiation damage. When this happens the bone can get very fragile and sometimes fracture which creates a much bigger problem including a long and difficult recovery. So to avoid this, and prior to taking out her tooth, her surgeon sent her for hyperbaric treatments. The Marx protocol was used which included 20 treatments prior to removing the tooth to revascularize and thus strengthen the jaw. After removing the tooth Deborah returned for the remaining 10 more session to insure the bone heals up properly. In her case, Josephina was fortunate that the bone was strengthened with hyperbarics prior to more teeth dying. Indeed, she was pleased that she did not lose any further teeth. Two years later she came back to visit and say hello. She still had all the rest of her teeth.

## **Josephina, 61**

Radiation damaged circulation in her mouth, threatening her teeth. HBOT saved her teeth.

# Patients: Get Started with Hyperbarics

Its easy to get started with Hyperbarics. Just follow these simple steps.

## 1 Give us a call

Did a physician refer you? If so, they can download and fax us back a patient referral form. If not, our medical staff will discuss whether hyperbarics is right for you.

## 2 We talk with your insurance

Our medical staff contacts Medicare or private insurance to receive authorization and create a plan with you.

## 3 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 free  
consultation



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