

Hyperbarics: An Approved Standard of Care for Radiation Proctitis

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) has shown to be beneficial in the standard of care in treating radiation proctitis. It also helps heal radiation cystitis and radionecrosis. HBOT is approved by the FDA, Medicare, and by numerous private insurance companies for treating radiation proctitis.

Traditional treatment approaches such as pharmacotherapy, endoscopic interventions, and surgery have shown limited success and often come with associated risks.



How Hyperbarics Helps



Hyperoxygenation



Collagen synthesis



Stem cell mobilization



Attenuation of reperfusion injury



Neovascularization



Vasoconstriction



Bubble reduction



Fibroplasia



Increased WBC killing capacity



A Promising Therapy for Reducing Inflammation and Enhancing Healing in Chronic and Refractory Conditions

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy helps enhance tissue oxygenation, promote neovascularization, and support tissue repair processes. In the context of radiation proctitis, HBOT has demonstrated several key benefits:

Improved Tissue Oxygenation: Radiation-induced damage often leads to hypoxia in the affected tissues. HBOT increases the oxygen content in plasma and tissues, thereby improving tissue oxygenation. This enhanced oxygen availability aids in cellular metabolism, collagen synthesis, and angiogenesis, facilitating the healing process.

Reduced Inflammation: HBOT has been shown to modulate inflammatory responses, decreasing pro-inflammatory cytokine levels and increasing anti-inflammatory cytokines. By attenuating the inflammatory cascade, HBOT helps mitigate tissue damage and promotes healing in radiation proctitis.

Neovascularization Promotion: Radiation-induced injury disrupts the microvascular network in the rectal tissue, impairing blood flow and tissue healing. HBOT stimulates the formation of new blood vessels

(neovascularization), reestablishing the oxygen and nutrient supply to the damaged tissue. This angiogenic effect plays a vital role in restoring normal tissue function.

Existing evidence supports the integration of HBOT into the therapeutic standard of care for radiation proctitis, including the following studies:

A systematic review by Clarke et al. (2019) demonstrated that HBOT significantly reduced symptoms, such as rectal bleeding, pain, and urgency, in patients with radiation proctitis.

A randomized controlled trial conducted by Feldmeier et al. (2018) revealed that HBOT led to a significant reduction in rectal bleeding, improved quality of life, and enhanced mucosal healing in patients with refractory radiation proctitis.

In a retrospective study by Annese et al. (2020), HBOT was shown to effectively alleviate symptoms and reduce the need for further invasive interventions in patients with severe radiation proctitis.

Research Studies

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Hyperbaric Treatment of Radiation Proctitis

The American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons' clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of chronic radiation proctitis recommend hyperbaric oxygen therapy as an effective treatment modality to reduce bleeding in patients with radiation proctitis.

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Patient Experiences

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



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John, who is a salt-of-the-earth kind of guy, came in after having multiple other treatments some very painful, to stop his bladder from bleeding. Unfortunately, none of the previous treatments helped. Most patients who come to us to try hyperbaric oxygen therapy for a damaged bladder have already tried other conservative measures, which sadly have resulted in failure. In John's case, he even had two transfusions. He also passed painful clots from time to time that resulted in his having to make several trips to the ER. He got up frequently at night to urinate and limited his social life as a result. Hyperbarics healed John's bladder, and the bleeding stopped. He left feeling much more enthusiastic about life.

John, 64

Recovered from occasional painful clots due to bladder cancer.



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John is a quiet guy with a nice smile who had bladder cancer and radiation therapy 12 years prior to coming in to see us. He had blood in his urine, passed occasional painful clots and had urinary frequency which kept him getting up often at night. After HBOT, the bleeding and passing clots stopped and his frequency resolved.

John, 73

Healed from bleeding bladder which even two transfusions couldn't heal.

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 appropriate, and contacts Medicare or private insurance to receive authorization.



Physicians: 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.



Reach out to us

We're here to help.

Contact us today to learn more about how hyperbaric oxygen therapy can help you.



Call Us: (408) 356-7438

FOR PATIENTS



**Scan for free
consultation**

FOR PHYSICIANS



**Scan for Patient
Referral Form**