



Contraindications to Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy has been proven to be safe and free of discomfort. However, there are a few precautions that should be taken prior to embarking on a course of treatment and during the treatment.

Pneumothorax or cerebral air embolism: anyone who has or has ever had a pneumothorax or cerebral air embolism must consult with our medical director prior to beginning any course of Hyperbaric treatment. We use relatively mild hyperbaric pressure and are careful to decompress slowly to obviate any difficulties with these conditions.

Barotrauma: Some individuals experience pain in the ears or sinuses, particularly during compression. Clearing the ears using the Valsalva maneuver, or chewing gum usually alleviates the pain. If this is not successful, the patient can communicate with the attendant and the compression can be slowed or stopped. Patients are advised to avoid hyperbaric therapies with a cold or other sinus or respiratory infection.

Myopia, Presbyopia: Some patients over 40 years of age have reported a worsening of myopia (near-sightedness) or improvement in presbyopia (far sightedness) after twenty treatments or more. This is usually temporary, and the patient is advised to avoid any changes to corrective lenses until at least 8 weeks after cessation of therapy.

Oxygen Toxicity: There are no documented cases of oxygen toxicity with treatments of two atmospheres or less.

Cataracts: An occasional maturing or ripening of cataracts has been reported among patients who already have cataracts.

Claustrophobia: Also referred to as confinement anxiety. Most patients who claim to be claustrophobic do not have any difficulty in the chamber. The patient is in constant contact with the attendant and also has controls on the inside of the chamber which usually alleviates the concern.

Using the Following Cancer Drugs: Bleomycin, Cisplatin, Disulfiram, Doxorubicin, Sulfamylon. If you are using or have used any of these medications in the past, please notify the staff prior to the first session. HBOT is contraindicated for extended periods after stopping Bleomycin or Cisplatin. HBOT may be started as soon as Disulfiram, Doxorubicin, or Sulfamylon are discontinued.

Sign acknowledging that you understand the contraindications:
