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Title: Cerebral blood flow distribution during exposure to 5 bar oxygen in awake rats

Authors: Bergo, GW
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Abstract: The regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) and cardiac output (CO) were measured in conscious rats by the microsphere method during control, after 5 and 60 min at 5 bar O₂, and 5 min after decompression to air. The arterial acid-base balance was essentially unchanged during hyperbaric O₂ and after decompression, except for a slightly reduced CO₂ and HCO₃ during the O₂ exposure. The heart rate (HR) fell at 1 bar O₂, continued to fall during compression, and remained low. A marked HR rise occurred in air after decompression. The systolic arterial pressure (AP) increased, while mean AP was constant during the O₂ exposure. The CO and total cerebral blood flow fell in proportion to the arterial O₂ content increase. The rCBF was unevenly distributed in control, and fell to a disparate degree and remained low in some regions during O₂ exposure. Due to the rCBF fall, the O₂ supply was limited, the glucose supply was reduced, and CO₂ and heat transport probably were limited, suggesting a labile metabolic state locally in the brain. After decompression, blood flow remained low in several regions, making hypoxia likely for a considerable time in several brain areas, whereas the rest of the brain had normalized or increased

blood flow. The HR and systolic AP remained high for at least 30 min after decompression.

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