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Title: A Functional Suction Apparatus Within the Monoplace Hyperbaric Chamber.

Authors: Weaver, LK

Keywords: Suction Apparatus
HYPERBARIC CHAMBERS
Monoplace
EQUIPMENT

Issue Date: 1988

Publisher: Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, Inc.

Citation: Weaver LK. A Functional Suction Apparatus Within the Monoplace Hyperbaric Chamber. J. Hyperbaric Med 1988; 3(3):165-171.

Abstract: Most hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) treatments in the United States are delivered within the monoplace chamber. Patients who require HBO may have nasogastric (NG) tubes, or wound drains that require suction, which has not been well documented during monoplace HBO therapy. This paper describes a method of providing suction during HBO therapy within a Sechrist monoplace hyperbaric chamber. An Ohio vacuum regulator with a 1.4 liter suction receptacle canister was mounted on a stainless steel bracket that attaches to the hyperbaric chamber hatch in a manner similar to the Sechrist 500A ventilator. The vacuum regulator and canister were configured so that the 500A ventilator could be mounted on the hatch and still allow access to all i.v. pass throughs. A vacuum regulator is adjusted to the desired degree before compression. The hose that typically connects the vacuum regulator to the wall outlet is passed out of the chamber via an i.v. pass-through. It is not necessary to connect the unit to the wall vacuum because when chamber pressure exceeds 5 psi there is an adequate gradient from inside to outside the chamber to drive the vacuum regulator. The vacuum regulator can be turned on or off by turning a 3-way stopcock open or closed. The vacuum regulator should not be turned to "full" as this could expose the suctioned part to an extreme vacuum; rather it should be regulated

to the desired level by the variable suction knob. This system has proved satisfactory suction for NG drainage, surgical drains, and oropharyngeal suctioning in a patient who could not swallow.

Description: Journal of Hyperbaric Medicine : Journal of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, Inc.

URI: <http://archive.rubicon-foundation.org/4374>

ISSN: 0884-1225

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