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Title: Hypoglycemia Related to Hyperbaric Oxygen in Hemophilus influenzae Purpura Fulminans.

Authors: Bland, DK
Klooster, MJ

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Abstract: We report a case of Hemophilus influenzae type b meningitis, septicemia, and purpura fulminans in a 9-mo-old child where marked hypoglycemia occurred concurrently with hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapy. Blood glucose dropped from 148 to 43 mg/dl, and cerebrospinal fluid glucose decreased from 36 to 6 mg/dl. After cessation of HBO no further episodes of hypoglycemia occurred. We postulate that a depression of glucose utilization in this child was due to impaired oxygen availability in large volumes of ischemic tissue. HBO therapy to increase oxygen availability may have increased glucose utilization at a time when glucose supply was constant, resulting in depletion of hepatic glucose and subsequent hypoglycemia. It seems prudent to recommend careful monitoring of blood glucose levels when critically ill children with large amounts of ischemic tissue are treated with HBO.

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