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Title: Air Breaks in the Sechrist Model 2500-B Monoplace Hyperbaric Chamber.

Authors: Raleigh, GW

Keywords: Hyperbaric Oxygenation
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Abstract: Changing the gas source from oxygen to air on the Sechrist model 2500-B monoplace hyperbaric chamber has been suggested as a method of rapidly reducing the inspired PO₂ for the treatment of an oxygen-induced seizure occurring within the chamber. It has also been advocated for use in providing an air break to delay the onset of CNS oxygen toxicity. A Sechrist chamber was plumbed to both oxygen and compressed air sources, and a mask for air breathing was installed. Chamber atmosphere was monitored by mass spectrometry. At 2.8 ATA (60 fsw) and 1.9 ATA (30fsw), 5-min air breaks were provided by changing the gas source and by mask. At 2.8 ATA, a 5-min gas source change to air decreased chamber atmosphere to 41% O₂ and required 21 min to return to 100% oxygen. A 5-min air break by mask at 2.8 ATA delivered an F_IO₂ of 0.21 to the patient and decreased the chamber atmosphere to 88% O₂, but required only 8 min to return to 100% oxygen. For alert, cooperative patients, air breaks given via mask are more effective than changing the gas source because it guarantees a 0.21 F_IO₂ during the break, yet provides a more rapid return to 100% oxygen breathing.

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