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Title: Hyperbaric oxygen in the treatment of posthanging cerebral anoxia.

Authors: Mathieu, D  
Wattel, F  
Gosselin, B  
Chopin, C  
Durocher, A

Keywords: cerebral anoxia  
Hyperbaric Oxygenation  
hanging  
strangulation  
suicide

Issue Date: 1987

Publisher: Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, Inc.

Citation: Mathieu D, Wattel F, Gosselin B, Chopin C, Durocher A. Hyperbaric oxygen in the treatment of posthanging cerebral anoxia. J. Hyperbaric Med 1987; 2(2):63-67

Abstract: Between 1971 and 1981, 170 patients, who had attempted suicide by hanging, were admitted in our emergency unit. On admission, 19 were conscious or confused and 151 unconscious: 54 in grade 1 coma, 26 in grade II, 30 in grade III, and 31 in grade IV. Brain death was pronounced in 10 patients. Supportive and anticerebral edema measures were provided and, for 136 patients 278, 90-min hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) courses at 2.5 ATA. Thirty-four patients with only minor neurologic problems received normobaric oxygen. Of the 170 patients, 132 recovered completely without any residual (78%), 8 recovered with neurological sequelae (5%), and 30 died (17%). Neurologic recovery was obtained after an average of 0.8 HBO course in patients with grade 1 coma, 1.5 HBO courses in patients with grade II, 2.5 HBO courses in patients with grade III, and 3.9 HBO courses in patients with grade IV. In no cases where coma persisted was recovery obtained after the 5th course. No patient with neurologic depression above grade III coma died and 10 patients died through complications unrelated to the cerebral anoxia. Results are

significantly better when HBO treatment begins before the 3rd h after the unsuccessful hanging (recovery without neurologic sequela: 85 vs. 56%,  $P < 0.05$ ).

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

URI: <http://archive.rubicon-foundation.org/4328>

ISSN: 0884-1225

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