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Title: Comparative analysis of decompression sickness: type and time of onset.

Authors: Torrey, SA
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Abstract: An analysis of 59 cases of decompression sickness (DCS) among U.S. Navy divers was made from files at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) from December 1980 to August 1986. The results are presented in descriptive format. The occurrence of type of DCS and time of onset of symptoms of DCS were compared to previous studies. Using chi-square analysis, significant differences were found between the type of DCS at NDSTC and data reported by other authors. The data revealed a higher incidence of Type II DCS occurrences. The time of DCS onset symptoms varied widely over a period of 36 h. The findings do not support previous research that suggests Type I DCS is more prevalent than Type II DCS and that the time of onset usually occurs within 6 h after surfacing. Suggestions are made for this increase of Type II DCS, including improved neurologic examinations and continuing investigation of the apparent increase of Type II DCS (major) incidences compared to Type I (minor) DCS.

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