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Title: Hyperbaric oxygenation improves survival in rats poisoned with carbon tetrachloride.

Authors: Troop, BR
Majerus, T
Bernacchi, A
Belzerg, H
Myers, RAM

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Abstract: One hundred and sixty-six rats were studied to determine if treatment with hyperbaric oxygenation would improve the survival of carbon tetrachloride-poisoned rats. Group A was treated within 1 hr of poisoning, and group B, 4 h after poisoning. Group C was not treated. Group D was given a placebo and then treated with hyperbaric oxygen. There was a statistically significant improvement in survival in the group treated within 1 h. Although survival was better if treatment was begun after 4 h when compared to untreated animals, this was not statistically significant. Rats given a placebo and then treated with hyperbaric oxygen had no mortality. The following conclusions are offered: (a) Hyperbaric oxygenation improves survival from carbon tetrachloride poisoning; (b) the response rate is time related; (c) improved survival with hyperbaric oxygen is due to decreased hepatotoxicity. The mechanism whereby the liver is protected is not yet explained; however there is sufficient evidence of the benefit of hyperbaric oxygenation on carbon tetrachloride poisoning to

recommend its clinical use.

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