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Title: Clinical experience with hyperbaric oxygen therapy in the salvage of ischemic skin flaps and grafts.

Authors: Bowersox, JC
Strauss, MB
Hart, GB

Keywords: HBO therapy
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Citation: Bowersox JC, Strauss MB, Hart GB. Clinical experience with hyperbaric oxygen therapy in the salvage of ischemic skin flaps and grafts. J. Hyperbaric Med 1986; 1(3):141-149

Abstract: We reviewed the records of 105 patients with ischemic skin flaps and grafts who received hyperbaric oxygen as an adjunctive treatment. Sixty-three percent of the patients with skin grafts and 90% of the patients with skin grafts had risk factors that were considered to be poor prognostic indicators of flap or graft survival. Eighty-nine percent of threatened flaps and 91% of the threatened skin grafts were salvaged. All but 2 of the patients treated were able to tolerate hyperbaric oxygen therapy: minimal side effects of barotrauma and confinement anxiety were easily managed. Nine patients with histories of impaired wound healing or underlying diseases (diabetes mellitus, peripheral vascular disease) received hyperbaric oxygen treatments before skin grafting. There was greater than 95% take of the skin grafts in this group. Treatment failures in the patients in this series were associated with older age, delay in initiation of treatment, and the presence of underlying factors associated with poor wound healing.

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