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Title: Decreased protein synthesis during dry saturation

diving

Authors: Conway, JM

Thorp, JW Stein, TP Seale, JL Rumpler, WV

Keywords: saturation

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protein synthesis

Issue Date: 1995

Citation: Undersea Hyperb Med. 1995 Sep; 22(3): 219-27.

Abstract: Changes in metabolism during saturation dives

have been reported; however, these changes have not been well defined. This study was conducted to determine the effect of saturation diving on protein metabolism. Whole body protein synthesis was measured by the ammonia and urea endpoint methods, following a single oral dose of 15Nglycine in 11 Navy divers 33.9 +/- 1.9 yr of age. The divers were fed a controlled diet throughout the three trials. Trial I was on the surface, and trials II and III were during dry saturation dives at 0.56 MPa. The protein synthesis results in gram protein per kilogram lean body mass per day, least square mean +/- SD: [formula: see text]. Under the conditions of this series of dry saturation dives, protein synthesis was depressed by up to 30-50% for the urea and ammonia endpoint methods, respectively. An estimate of liver protein synthesis was made by measuring the incorporation of the 15N label into plasma fibrinogen. The 15N enrichment of fibrinogen glycine and the hippurate precursor for fibrinogen were decreased significantly. This dramatic decrease in protein synthesis was observed despite positive nitrogen balance in these divers. Although further investigation is needed to elucidate the mechanism, the decrease in the incorporation of 15N glycine into fibrinogen

suggests alteration in liver nitrogen metabolism

at 0.56 MPa.

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