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Title: The probabilistic nature of decompression sickness

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Abstract: Because of the variability that is associated with decompression outcome, it has been extremely difficult to assess the risk related to a given decompression profile. This study is an initial attempt to deal with the observed variability and improve the precision of the decompression model. Two hundred eighty-eight mice were explosively decompressed following a 15-min hyperbaric nitrogen-oxygen exposure to one of two pressures; 13.8 or 14.2 ATA. The results of these exposures were compared with theoretical estimates based upon the Binominal Probability Function. No statistically significant differences between th actual decompression results and the theoretical predictions were found. this preliminary study indicates that probability theory may be a means to qualify the variance found in decompression studies and improve the precision of the present decompression model. (Author) Animals *Atmospheric Pressure Decompression Sickness/*epidemiology Hyperbaric Oxygenation Mice Probability Theory Time Factors

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