

About Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment

Swedish/Edmonds' Center for Wound Healing & Hyperbarics is equipped with the only computer-controlled hyperbaric oxygen chambers in Washington state.

What is Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Treatment?

Hyperbaric oxygen allows patients to breathe 100 percent oxygen at pressure two to three times greater than normal sea-level pressure. At Swedish/Edmonds' center, two monoplace hyperbaric chambers are supported by a clinical team of a certified hyperbaric oxygen technologist, three surgeons, two MDs, three ARNPs and two hyperbaric RNs.

Benefits of HBO

Research has shown that increasing oxygen to the body's tissues helps create new blood vessels, reduces hypoxia and stimulates a healing cascade by hyperoxygenation followed by a drastic drop. High oxygen levels may also prevent or kill certain harmful organisms, boosting the body's immune response.

HBO treatable conditions

We treat only non-emergency patients with the following moderate conditions:

- Certain diabetic foot wounds
- Certain artery wounds
- Failing flaps/grafts
- Tissue and bone infections caused by radiation therapy for cancer treatment
- Recurring bone infections (chronic refractory osteomyelitis)

For more information on these conditions and their treatments, please call 425-673-3380.

Treatment Protocols

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy typically consists of two-hour treatments, five days a week for a total of 25-30 treatments. The precise number of treatments will often depend on the clinical indication for each patient.

The chamber bed slides out on rails for easy entering and exiting. Clear sides of a hyperbaric oxygen chamber help patients feel unconfined. During treatment, patients can watch TV or movies, listen to music, read or even sleep.

Every HBO patient is examined by a provider before and after chamber treatment sessions.

Minor side effects or possible complications

Patients may experience minor side effects such as:

- Ear popping (similar to what can happen during air travel)
- Sinus squeeze
- Claustrophobia
- Anxiety
- Drop in blood sugar

Patient Referral and Consultation

Ask your doctor if hyperbaric oxygen therapy is right for you. Or, you may self refer. Call the Center for Wound Healing & Hyperbarics at 425-673-3380.