

招請講演

Hyperbaric Medicine; The State of the Art USA 1986

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In 1977, the first of a bi-yearly circular was developed and sent to the then known active hyperbaric chambers throughout the country. Over the ensuing 8 years a hyperbaric registry has been developed in which the locations, staffing patterns, diseases treated, affiliations of the chamber and trends of hyperbaric medicine have been followed up since 1970. Blue Cross/Blue Shield/Medicare/Medicaid, the major third party insurers have agreed to payments in 14 conditions labeled the Accepted group which include: gas embolism, radiation necrosis, decompression sickness, carbon monoxide poisoning, gas gangrene, refractory osteomyelitis, necrotizing fasciitis, soft tissue infections, crush injury, ischemic conditions, compromised skin grafts/skin flaps, wound healing enhancement, burns and anemia.

Negotiations may be undertaken in the treatment of 16 conditions in an Investigative category. The Accepted conditions are those where the body of literature, animal and clinical research, indicate that the use of hyperbaric oxygen is either the primary treatment (decompression sickness, air embolism, carbon monoxide poisoning) or adjunctive treatment. The Divers Alert Network, a system whereby injured scuba divers or commercial deep sea divers may find the local, nearest, and most appropriate hyperbaric chamber for recompression therapy on a 24 hour/7 days per week basis. There is a central telephone network at Duke University, Durham, NC (919) 684-2948 and a second system through the

Hyperbaric Registry located at the MIEMSS, (301) 528-7814.

The statistics of the registry will be presented. Of the 220 existing Hyperbaric facilities, there are 85 multiplace, 118 mono-place and 17 of both types. Over the 16 years (1971-1985) 44,095 patients have been treated for hyperbaric related conditions. In this group 71.9% are in the Accepted category and 28.1% are in the Investigative and other categories.

As a result of the registry, one has been able to determine the trend in hyperbaric medicine and also the steady increase in its usage nationwide. From the original 37 chambers in 1977 to the 220 chambers in 1985, one has seen a dramatic increase in usage of hyperbaric oxygen.