

Wound Care and Hyperbaric Healing

*Where healing begins.
Your comfort and safety
are our concerns.*



**Lafayette General
Medical Center**

Your Health. Your Hospital. Your Choice.

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What is Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT)?

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is breathing 100 percent oxygen under increased atmospheric pressure to treat basic diseases and the processes that cause them.

How is this accomplished?

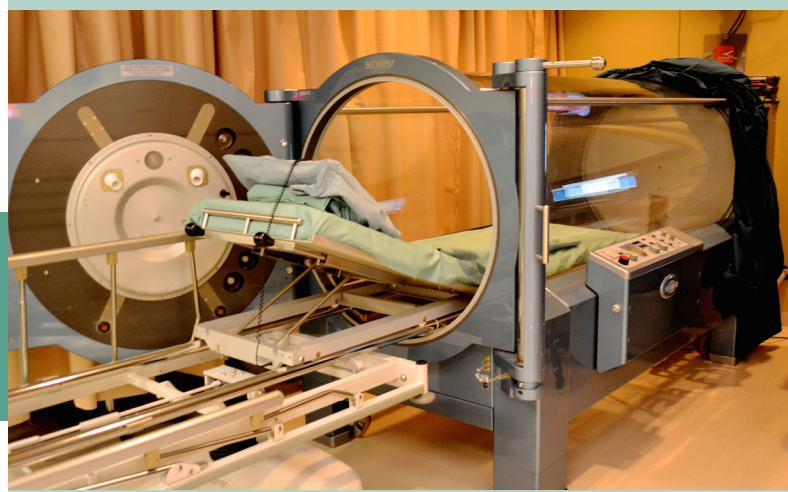
At Lafayette General, experienced physicians, nurses and technicians use two 36-inch monoplace chambers to administer treatments. Patients rest comfortably on stretchers inside the chambers while they are slowly pressurized with pure oxygen to two or three times normal atmospheric pressure. Patients watch TV, rest or sleep while breathing healing oxygen. The treatment is painless, although some may experience temporary ear fullness.

How long do treatments last?

Each treatment lasts about two hours from start to finish. Treatments are usually given daily, Monday through Friday. Approximately 20 to 30 treatments are required.

What are the benefits of HBOT?

HBOT activates leukocytes, or white blood cells that kill bacteria. HBOT recruits fibroblasts into hypoxic tissues to produce collagen and grow new capillaries. This leads to improved tissue perfusion and oxygenation in a way that topical oxygen or oxygen administered by mask or nasal cannula cannot. HBOT reduces edema and inflammation, supports cellular resuscitation and promotes healing of injured tissue.



What types of conditions are treated with HBOT?

HBOT helps heal hypoxic injuries and wounds anywhere in the body, from skin to internal organs, brain and nervous system to bones. We use it most often in cases of threatened surgical flaps and skin grafts, complicated diabetic foot wounds, severe infections of bone or soft tissue, crushing injuries of extremities and to reverse tissue damage caused by radiation therapy.

Is Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Safe?

Although any medical treatment has some degree of risk, we take all appropriate steps to ensure patient safety. Our hyperbaric chambers meet or exceed all Federal, State, local and hospital guidelines. All patients are evaluated by a specially trained hyperbaric physician before treatments are prescribed. All treatments are attended by physicians, nurses and technicians trained in hyperbaric medicine. Great healing potential with a minimal side effect profile makes HBOT an excellent additional medical treatment for many patients who need extra help with the healing process.