What is Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy?
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, or HBOT, is a medical treatment in which a patient breathes 100 percent oxygen while under pressure in a hyperbaric chamber.

What is the purpose of breathing oxygen under pressure?
Breathing 100 percent oxygen under pressure dissolves more oxygen in your body’s blood, which is then delivered to those areas that are having trouble healing due to the lack of oxygen in the surrounding tissues.

How long does it last?
An average treatment lasts approximately two hours.

What conditions benefit from HBOT?
- A person with diabetes and a wound that is slow to heal, or is not healing
- Someone with damaged tissue from radiation therapy
- Someone with a skin graft that has a questionable blood supply
- Certain infections of the bone and/or skin
- Anyone with a wound that has shown no improvement in four weeks.

About St. Francis’ Advanced Wound Center
Our Advanced Wound Center is an outpatient program that focuses on chronic and non-healing wounds. Using advanced treatment modalities and a case management model, we help patients improve the quality of their lives. In partnership with physicians, nurses and multiple medical disciplines, we provide invaluable care for patients.

Let the St. Francis Advanced Wound Center heal your patients today
For more information about advanced wound care and Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, contact us today.

Innovative Care with a Soul™
St. Francis Advanced Wound Center
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System

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Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy: accelerating the healing process

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) is one of several advanced wound care modalities provided at the St. Francis Advanced Wound Center. HBOT is used adjunctively with other procedures such as revascularization, or as a primary treatment when other options fail.

HBOT Facts

- Most patients do not suffer from claustrophobia. Once inside, you will be able to see out in all directions and there is always an attendant in the room during your treatment. For those patients still feeling anxious about their treatment, the hyperbaric physician can prescribe medication that will relax you and make your treatment less stressful.
- The only sensation you will experience is during the beginning (pressurization) of the treatment. The slowly increasing pressure will push on your eardrum. This is exactly the same feeling you would experience when landing in an airplane or diving to the bottom of a swimming pool. The St. Francis Advanced Wound Center staff will instruct you on the different methods of relieving this ear pressure.
- Side effects vary and may include a temporary change in your vision after many treatments. Do NOT change your eyewear prescription during or immediately after your treatments.
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy is covered by most medical insurance companies, including Medicare and Medicaid.

Patients with diabetes

Many patients with diabetes experience a drop in their blood sugar (glucose) level during a hyperbaric treatment. The St. Francis Advanced Wound Center staff will check your glucose level before and after each treatment. Be sure to continue taking any prescribed diet and medications, as it is essential in order to maintain optimal wound healing.

All symptoms of low blood sugar must be reported immediately to a staff member. The center can also assist you with managing your diabetes by working with your primary care doctor.

Safety

HBOT is very safe as long as all the precautions are followed. As a patient, you will be given detailed information before your first treatment. Our staff will ensure your safety and make your therapy comfortable and stress free.

Food and Drinks

Please DO NOT drink soft drinks (colas, etc.) or gas-producing foods two hours before your treatment. The carbonation and/or gas produced by some foods can cause stomach or intestinal pain during the depressurization of the chamber.

Smoking

The nicotine and carbon monoxide in tobacco products diminish the process of healing and reduce the effectiveness of the treatment. It is extremely important that you DO NOT use tobacco products during your course of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.

Family members and visitors

Family members, significant others and/or friends are encouraged and welcome to participate in the patient’s initial orientation process to the St. Francis Advanced Wound Center. Please feel free to ask questions about the center, treatments and hyperbaric operations.

After the initial evaluation process is completed, it is recommended that only one family member, significant other or friend accompany the patient to the center during treatments. The center strongly discourages bringing children to treatments. In the event there is no alternative, the child(ren) must remain in the waiting area/lobby.

Clothing

- Cotton clothing will be provided by the center
- Street clothes and shoes are NOT allowed in the chamber
- Undergarments must be 100 percent cotton
- Lockers and changing rooms are available

Valuables

- Please leave rings, watches, earrings, necklaces and large amounts of cash at home.
- If you forget and bring any of these items, please leave them with a family member.

Prohibited Items*

- Matches/lighters
- Jewelry/watches
- Street clothing
- Petroleum products
- Cell phones/PDAs
- Newspapers
- Makeup/lipstick
- Magazines/books
- Hair products (gels)
- Anything deemed unsafe by center personnel

*Not a complete list