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ROLE OF HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY IN TREATMENT OF DIABETIC WOUNDS?

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Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) has been increasing in popularity as an adjuvant treatment for difficult to heal diabetic wounds. Critical review of literature as well as results of our own work challenge the notion that this is the effective and efficacious treatment modality. A brief review of that evidence will be presented. The most recent clinical guidelines supporting HBO use for diabetic wound are often based on expert opinions and poorly controlled studies with significant biases. A recent, very large dataset retrospective review of prospectively collected multicenter data, with propensity matching methodology, failed to find benefits of HBO for any group of diabetic patients with difficult to heal wounds. Similarly, our own prospective double blind, placebo controlled study have failed to show benefit of HBO in any of measured wound healing outcomes, when comprehensive wound care was applied equally in sham and HBO group. HBO is a very time consuming and cost intensive modality requiring daily sessions for six to eight weeks. There are other treatment modalities which were demonstrated to be effective in a properly controlled clinical studies, at lower costs or/and patient time involvement. HBO by its very nature and cost may possibly prohibit some patients from obtaining access to several more effective and immediate treatments. We will discuss the rational path to successful healing of difficult diabetic wounds based on the most current scientific evidence.

Biography

Ludwik Fedorko has obtained his Doctoral Degree from Oxford University (UK) in 1983. He then has continued his research at the Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, Canada) and as a Staff Scientist at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute at the Mt Sinai Hospital (Toronto, Canada). He obtained his Royal College Fellowship certificate in Anesthesiology in 1995. He continues to practice as Anesthesiologist, Intensive Care and Hyperbaric Medicine attending physician at the Toronto General Hospital of the University Health Network in Toronto. He holds the Associate Professor appointment at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toronto.

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