

Information for People Considering Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBO)

Contra-indications for HBO (January 2016)

HBO can interact with other drugs and either alter or reduce the effects of these. Please note the information below regarding conditions and medication is **not exhaustive** and we therefore **strongly recommend** you consult with your medical professional before signing the attached consent form and commencing High Dose Oxygen Treatment.

ABSOLUTE (should not receive treatment)	Untreated tension pneumothorax.
--	--

RELATIVE	
Upper Respiratory Infections	These predispose to otobarotrauma and sinus squeeze.
Emphysema with CO2 retention	Patients with this problem may develop pneumothorax due to rupture of an emphysematous bulla.
Optic Ischaemic Neuropathy	HBO could change the blood flow level to the eyes and may have a detrimental effect on the eyes.
Asymptomatic Pulmonary Lesions on chest X-ray	HBO treatment should not be carried out if chest X-ray reveals such lesions.
History of thoracic or ear surgery	The patient should be thoroughly evaluated before HBO therapy is considered.
Uncontrolled high fever	Fever predisposes to seizures. The temperature should be lowered before HBO therapy is commenced.
Pregnancy	There is animal experimental evidence that exposure to HBO during early pregnancy increases the risk of congenital malformations.
Seizure disorders	Seizures are rare during HBO sessions for neurological indications where pressures do not exceed 1.5 atmospheres. (If the disorder is due to focal cerebral circulatory disorder or hypoxia, HBO should help reduce the tendency towards seizures.)

Source: K.K.Jain "Textbook of Hyperbaric Medicine"

Doxorubicin (chemotherapy drug)	Must be stopped 3 days before HBO therapy can commence.
Cis – platinum (chemotherapy drug)	Cannot be taken by HBO users.
Bleomycin (antibiotic)	Cannot be taken by HBO users.