

Comprehensive Care for Chronic Wounds & Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy



By Victoria Bliss-Calkins, CEO, Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center and Staff

Chronic, or nonhealing, wounds affect between 2.5 to 4.5 million people in the U.S. and are particularly prevalent among the estimated 26 million Americans suffering from diabetes. If left untreated or if not treated properly or in a timely manner, these painful wounds may become infected and lead to severe disability or even amputation.

Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center provides patient care for the treatment of a wide range of chronic wounds. If you suffer from a chronic wound, our center will work with you and your physician to deliver advanced wound-care therapies, including compression, artificial skin grafting, application of growth factors, or vacuum-assisted closure.

At Oxygen Oasis, we provide a personalized care plan to fit your specific needs. It starts with an assessment by our highly skilled team of specialists. You will be assigned a personal case manager to provide detailed oversight of your continuing care. You will receive ongoing education regarding prevention of wounds, nutrition, hygiene, and other

key topics. We also give you or your caregiver detailed instruction in home care, nutrition, bandage changes, and preventing further injury.

Are there effective treatments beyond standard wound care?

Yes, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) is beneficial for many types of chronic wounds. When HBOT is used in conjunction with standard wound care, improved results have been demonstrated in the healing of difficult or limb-threatening wounds as compared to routine wound care alone.

How does HBOT assist in wound repair?

Patients breathe 100% oxygen at increased atmospheric pressure, causing oxygen levels to rise and carrying oxygen into the plasma and tissues surrounding the wound. The elevation in tissue oxygen induces significant changes in the wound-repair process that promote healing.

What types of wounds can benefit from HBOT?

1. Diabetic wounds of the lower extremities. Diabetes is the leading cause of nontraumatic lower limb amputations. Every 30 seconds, a person with diabetes loses a limb to this disease.

Traditional wound-care methods alone do not have an impressive success rate for diabetic foot ulcers, but, when combined with HBOT, the statistics on these methods rise significantly. For instance, 61% of diabetes patients suffering with foot ulcers who undergo traditional treatment avoid amputation, while for patients who add HBOT, the number rises to 89%.

2. Chronic refractory osteomyelitis (bone infection) Osteomyelitis is

a serious complication of chronic wounds and necrotizing fasciitis and is a distinctive feature of Wagner Grade 3 diabetic ulcers.

HBOT is an effective adjunct to antibiotics and surgery, the traditional treatments for osteomyelitis. Hyperbaric oxygen works by killing the bacteria that thrive in low-oxygen environments, stopping them from replicating, spreading, and releasing damaging toxins. HBOT may also improve circulation, boost the effect of antibiotics, deliver infection-fighting blood components to the infection site, and accelerate bone growth and healing.

3. Delayed radiation injury Radiation side effects are generally divided into two categories: acute reactions and chronic complications. Acute reactions refer to the effects that occur during or just after treatment, while chronic complications are those that occur months or even years after the treatment. Acute reactions almost always resolve with time and treatment. Unfortunately, chronic complications, which are typically caused by scarring and narrowing of the blood vessels within the radiation-

treated area, often do not improve with time and are likely to get worse. The high-dose oxygen provided in the hyperbaric chamber effectively treats delayed radiation injuries by increasing oxygen levels to the site of injury to assist in the repair of damage.

4. Compromised skin grafts and flaps. A skin graft is a piece of skin transplanted onto a complex wound. A skin flap includes skin plus deeper tissues, sometimes muscle, blood vessels, and bone. In order to heal, skin grafts and flaps need a healthy, oxygenated wound bed. Success of the graft or flap may be compromised by an improperly prepared transplant site, the poor circulatory health of the patient, radiation treatment, or other factors.

HBOT is used both to prepare wound sites before transplant and to aid in healing after transplant of skin grafts and flaps. HBOT works by enhancing blood circulation and tissue oxygenation in the wound bed.

Can I receive standard wound care treatment and HBOT in one place?

Yes. Oxygen Oasis offers both advanced wound care and

hyperbaric oxygen treatment in the same facility to provide a convenient, comprehensive, and consistent wound-care experience for our patients. Our wound-care specialists take pride in providing modern, innovative wound management, including debridement, dressing changes, and/or the use of bioengineered skin substitutes when needed. We are also the first free-standing Wound Care and HBOT facility in PA to offer HBOT in both multiplace and monoplace hyperbaric chambers, which gives patients the choice of receiving treatment sitting up in a group setting or lying down in a single chamber. With our caring staff, flexible scheduling, easy access, and ample free parking, Oxygen Oasis is an excellent alternative to the traditional hospital setting.

Please visit www.o2oasis.com for a library of evidence-based studies and reviews of hyperbaric medicine. You can also view the full range of services available, as well as information about what to expect before, during, and after treatment with HBOT. Browse the profiles of our staff and use the Contact Us section for any questions or to schedule an appointment.

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