

The Pressure Point

May/ June
2008



House Calls



Focus on the Practice

HBOT Clinics: Is there a DOCTOR in the house?

The IHA has been an advocate for patients and families from its inception. For this reason, the association does NOT condone or agree with the hyperbaric treatment of families by lay people (however well intentioned), who happen to own a hyperbaric device.

This "practice" by many not licensed to give medical advice has lately become a great concern for the IHA, especially with the widespread medical "know" that takes place on the list serves available on the web.

Whether advice is coming from the operator of a chamber on the back of a semi-truck or from a chamber set up in a cabin in the mountains of North Carolina, the IHA goes to great pains to keep the SAFETY of families *the focus* of hyperbaric professionals within the field.

By skirting the law, by not having a prescription, the concern is that patients being treated with hyperbaric oxygen are not being followed by a licensed medical doctor. Instead, they are seeking medical advise from "professionals" who are practicing medicine without a license, purely by virtue of the equipment they possess.

Simply stated, even if a person has a prescription for a mild home chamber—which we know are beneficial—chambers are still prescriptive devices intended only for the patient for whom the script is written. Sharing a chamber is like sharing prescription drugs—NOT a good practice.

It cannot be stated more emphatically the danger this poses for those vulnerable patients who may be cajoled into a false sense of security merely because the chamber operator has "treated" many people without incident.

To help members and readers, here are some key questions to remember when deciding to start HBOT:

- ? Is there a licensed doctor in the facility?
- ? Is the doctor fluent in hyperbaric medicine?
- ? Is the physician at the clinic well-versed in all areas of medicine and not just the mechanics of hyperbaric medicine?

For example, your child has autism and you suddenly see

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Focus on the Practice *continued...*

that your child is has a rash or yeast issues.

- Will this physician be able to understand the dynamics of what this means medically and be able to re-evaluate the situation—enzymes, panels, etc?

Or, your child is prone to seizures.

- Is this professional educated in the protocols for autism, brain injury, or whatever the underlying medical issues causing the seizures? And, are they willing to adjust the treatment pressures, change the prescription?
- Are they able to administer other medical interventions to resolve the issue?
- Are they the professionals you trust in an emergency situation?

These are all hefty questions to keep in mind, especially when the safety of your loved one is concerned.

Remember that as a caregiver—sometimes desperate to find relief—many enticing options can literally pop up during the search for help, especially on the internet.



The *intent* of others may not be to hurt another. [We all know the adage about good intentions.] But this is where the “caveat emptor” clause in life has to kick in and knock some sense into the decision process. Whether or not money has crossed hands, there are other costs involved in these transactions—health costs. And, beware, there are no refunds on health!

Archives: Migraines

A Preliminary Report on Hyperbaric Oxygen in the Relief of Migraine Headache

From Headache: The Journal of Head and Face Pain

Volume 35 Issue 4 Page 197-199, April 1995

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Department of Hyper-baric Medicine, University of Maryland Medical Center, R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Baltimore.

Abstract

Background and Purpose—Oxygen inhalation was early advocated as a treatment for migraine headache. It has been theorized that the efficacy of raising blood oxygen levels in vascular headache is mediated by vasoconstriction and metabolic effects.

Hyperbaric oxygen can provide a much greater level of blood oxygenation than normobaric oxygen, and in recent studies it has been

used in the treatment of cluster headache. The purpose of this study was to compare the effects of hyperbaric oxygen and normobaric oxygen in migraine.

Methods—Twenty migraineurs were divided randomly into two groups and studied in a hyperbaric chamber during a typical headache attack. Global headache severity was measured by a verbal descriptor scale before and after exposure to oxygen.

One group received 100% oxygen at 1 atmosphere of pressure (normobaric) while the other received 100% oxygen at 2 atmospheres of pressure (hyper-baric).

One of the 10 patients in the normobaric group achieved significant relief of headache symptoms, while 9 of 10 in the hyperbaric group found relief.

Based on a chi-square test, this difference is significant at the $P < .005$ level.



Approximately 6% of men and 18% of women in the US currently suffer from migraine headaches

Those patients who did not find significant relief from normobaric oxygen were given hyperbaric oxygen as above. All nine found significant relief.

Conclusion—The results suggest that hyperbaric (but not normobaric) oxygen may be useful in the abortive management of migraine headache. Possibilities for the mechanism of this effect, in addition to vasoconstriction, include an increase in the rate of energy-producing and neurotransmitter-related metabolic reactions in the brain which require molecular oxygen.

Stroke. 2008; 39:1000

Amer. Heart Assoc.

Hyperbaric Oxygen Reduces Tissue Hypoxia and Hypoxia-Inducible Factor-1 α Expression in Focal Cerebral Ischemia

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Conclusions— Measurement of extrinsic and intrinsic markers of hypoxia revealed that HBO improves penumbral oxygenation in focal ischemia. Modification of the transcription factor hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α and its downstream targets may be involved in effects of HBO.

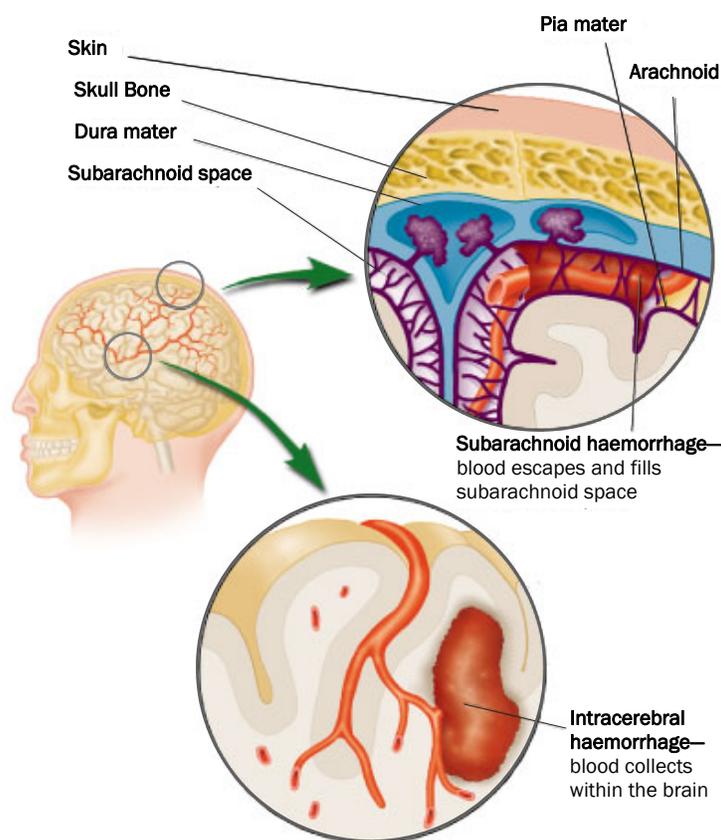
Key Words: cerebral ischemia • EF-5 • HBO • hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α • VEGF

Background and Purpose— The usefulness of hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) and normobaric hyperoxia in acute ischemic stroke is being reexplored because both improve outcome in experimental cerebral ischemia. However, even the basic mechanisms underlying oxygen therapy are poorly understood. We investigated the effect of both oxygen therapies on tissue hypoxia and on the transcription factor hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α .

Methods— Mice were subjected to filament-induced middle cerebral artery occlusion for 2 hours. Twenty-five minutes after filament introduction, mice breathed normobaric air, normobaric 100% O₂ (normobaric hyperoxia), or 100% O₂ at 3 ata (HBO) for 95 minutes. Hypoxic regions were mapped on tissue sections after preischemic infusion of the in vivo hypoxia marker EF-5. Hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α protein was measured after 2-hour middle cerebral artery occlusion using immunofluorescence and immunoblotting. Vascular endothelial growth factor expression was analyzed using in situ mRNA hybridization.

Results— Severity of ischemia did not differ among groups. HBO (35.2 \pm 10.4 mm²) significantly reduced the area of EF-5-stained hypoxic regions in focal cerebral ischemia compared with normobaric hyperoxia (46.4 \pm 11.2 mm²) and air (49.1 \pm 8 mm², P<0.05, analysis of variance). Topographically, EF-5 fluorescence was decreased in medial striatum and in cortical ischemic border areas. Immunohistochemistry and immunoblotting revealed lower hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α protein in the ischemic hemisphere of HBO-treated mice. Moreover, mRNA in situ hybridization showed lower expression of vascular endothelial growth factor in HBO and normobaric hyperoxia groups.

Below: Two types of Subarachnoid and Intracerebral haemorrhages



Stroke Warning Signs

- Unable to feel one side of the face or body
 - Sudden weakness in an arm, hand, or leg
 - Confusion
 - Trouble speaking
 - Dizziness or loss of balance
 - Sudden onset of a terribly painful headache
 - Unable to see out of one eye or double vision
 - Nausea or vomiting with no known cause
 - Fainting, convulsions or brief loss of consciousness
- Most common types of stroke**
- Ischemic strokes 87%
 - hemorrhagic strokes 13%
- Up to 70% of strokes seen in the hospital are ischemic, while the remaining 30% are a mixture of transient ischemic attacks and hemorrhagic strokes

Press Release

Family Wellness Center Treats Myasthenia Gravis with Hyperbarics

Doctor David Dornfeld and his associate Richard Lucente, DO, have a very busy medical practice. Their clinic, *Family Wellness Center* in Middletown, New Jersey is a primary care medical practice specialized in combining Complementary with Traditional Medicine. Patients at this clinic have been *recovering—and/ or improving dramatically*—from such ailments as Rheumatoid Arthritis, Multiple Sclerosis, Cancer, Stroke, Asperger's Syndrome, Autism, ADD, Parkinson's Disease, Interstitial Cystitis (gyn), Peripheral Neuropathy, post-surgical Memory Loss, and even obscure diseases such as *Myasthenia Gravis*. The operant word here is *recovering*.

Indeed, Ron Kubik (age 53), one of Dr. Dornfeld's patients, has been battling with the effects of *Myasthenia Gravis*, which is an autoimmune condition in which the body literally attacks the muscles and nerves as a response to some perceived threat.

On Mr. Kubik's initial visit to *Family Wellness Center*, he was weak, run down, his eyes were barely open, his throat was closing, making it difficult to swallow. As if this was not bad enough, he was on many medications—19 to be exact—including 210 units of insulin and 40 mg of prednisone daily!

In this sad state, Ron Kubik was unable to walk without a quad cane and had ecchymoses, which are areas along his entire torso that were signs of internal bleeding.

Dr. Dornfeld started Mr. Kubik on hyperbaric treatments (HBOT) back in September of 2006, and Ron has had a turn around in his quality of life. "Were it not for Dr. Dornfeld and the oxygen chamber, I would still be at home laying around waiting to die!" insists Mr. Kubik.

According to Dr. Dornfeld, there was unbelievable progress in Mr. Kubik's condition that very week he started treatment. "Mr. Kubik had better balance, open and clear eyes, and was able to stay awake. His muscle tone was also improving. All his sores and ecchymoses began clearing up," he notes.

Many of the therapies offered at

Family Wellness are considered preventative and complementary medicine. Nutrition, Osteopathy, Massage Therapy, Reiki, Acupuncture, Chelation Therapy, Intravenous Vitamin Therapy, Hyperbaric Therapy (HBOT) and Hypnosis are used as elements in a healing protocol intended to "care for the human frame, instead of dealing with a lot of symptoms," Dr. Dornfeld emphasizes.

Ron continues to receive HBOT to the present date, and he is continuing to do well. He can even climb stairs without assistance.

"A few times we reduced his treatments to 1 to 2 times every other week, and he had regressed, therefore, we are currently treating him 1-2 times a week, and his quality of life is well improved," Dr. Dornfeld adds. "I have recommended future treatments to continue 1-2 times a week."

Initially, Mr. Kubik's EMG tests, neurologist's opinions and his response to medications were consistent with *Myasthenia Gravis* and now show no evidence of the disease, due only to his hyperbaric treatment series. He has been able to remove all of his medications with these treatments as well.

And Mr. Kubik's story is not unusual amongst this The Family Wellness Center's set of patients. Post-stroke patients and those with Multiple Sclerosis or Parkinson's Disease notice a return of balance, coordination and strength in muscles, as well as improved appetite and speech with HBOT.

Like many patients seeking therapies for diseases—diseases other doctors have given up on—Mr. Kubik has had to fight back against rigid notions of medicine to regain his life. His story (following) documents the frustration—and copious amounts of medication—many patients have to deal with on a daily basis simply to combat the *symptoms* of a disease.

For Ron Kubik, his *Myasthenia Gravis*



Dr. Dornfeld and The Family Wellness Center
1680 State Highway 35 Middletown, NJ 07748

has been eased greatly by the addition of a few more molecules of oxygen at the cellular level!

These molecules enter the plasma and can cross the blood brain barrier, thereby reducing inflammation and improving his disease.

Hyperbaric therapy is not only available at Family Wellness Center, but also through the operations manager, John Svikhart, who can arrange for a portable hyperbaric chamber to be set up in a person's home. Svikhart's company Wellness Hyperbarics, allows for a safe treatment protocol to be received 1-3 times a day during the monthly rental period.

This option can maximize the effectiveness of the hyperbaric process in the convenience of patients' homes. Most patients will require between 20 to 40 treatments in order to notice major changes in their disease state. Some people require a maintenance dose to occasionally stabilize disease reversal.

"I love my practice because you treat the whole person who has the disease, not just the disease the person has," Doctor Dornfeld admits. With Thomas Edison as one of his spiritual mentors, it is not hard to see why Dr. Dornfeld's visionary practice is making such a difference for patients and for medicine.

"The doctors of the future will give no medicine, but will interest his patients in the care of the human frame, in diet and the cause and prevention of disease."

—Thomas Edison

Dr. Dornfeld has been practicing family medicine since 1986. Board certified by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, he is a member of ACAM—the American College for the Advancement of Medicine since 1994. He has also repeatedly trained with DAN! (Defeat Autism Now!) methods. His ex-

pertise in OMT (Osteopathic Manipulative Therapy), Nutrition and his certification in Diving (Divers Alert Network) take him beyond the realm of “everyday” medicine.

In addition to his dynamic medical practice, Dr. Dornfeld is the Medical Director for over 3000 students at the Aberdeen-

Matawan School District in New Jersey, often advising the district on vaccination safety. He also is a Clinical Instructor of Family Medicine for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Family Wellness Center is an approved Provider by the IHA.

Testimonial

Ronald Kubik’s Story

My name is Ronald Kubik. Shortly after my 52nd birthday, I awoke to find the left side of my face had drooped and was sagging. I thought I’d had a stroke in my sleep. I went to see my primary doctor and he checked me out. He ruled out a stroke.

I went for blood work, and it ruled out lymes disease. I then made appointments to see two other specialists because my condition was worsening. One of these specialists was not available for three weeks!

The other specialist, who accommodated me, hooked up wires to my left shoulder area and shocked me three times. The first time my arm jumped. The second time my arm barely moved, and the third time there was not movement at all.

I was advised that I had *Myasthenia Gravis* and that there was no cure for this disease. I was hospitalized for 5 days and then sent home.

One week later, I kept the appointment with a specialist who had placed me on the three week appointment waiting list. He started me on different medications and told me that this disease was rare at my age. It was not known where this disease came from and, the doctor once again reminded me that there was no cure. I was told that all that could be done was to try different combinations of drugs to try to keep me as comfortable as possible. This disease would eventually kill me.

Even with the multiple medications I was taking, I was just getting worse. I was extremely tired, weak, and had no energy. My throat felt as if it was clos-

ing up and I had a hard time breathing. I could not keep my eyes open and had blurred vision. I could not keep my balance—it was to the point where I kept falling down. I fell on my left knee three times and had to go to the hospital for knee surgery!

The doctors tried many things, even IVIG Therapy, which was a complete nightmare for me. This took five days from 8 am to 4 pm, and a nurse had to administer it for me. The IVIG made me even worse! I had slurred speech, my head felt numb and I could not think straight.

I felt really bad for my wife, Rose, because she was watching me deteriorate. Even with my previous disability, a right hip replacement, and multi-level disc herniations, I had once been a big strong man, who

continued to be a productive husband, helping my wife around the house, cooking dinner and doing those simple little things that made my wife happy.

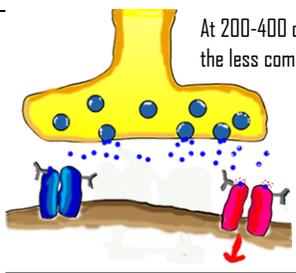
Since the *Myasthenia Gravis*, all I had been able to do was lay around—especially because of the tiredness and weakness. For the first three months since the start of the disease, I had to open everything with my teeth because my fingers did not have the strength or dexterity to do so.

Even the test strips for checking my blood sugar had to be opened with my mouth and teeth. I never before had blood sugar problems. I was then shooting myself 7 to 10 times daily with a 70-30 pen just to keep near the 120 mark.

(Continued on page 8)

Starting Medications Before Hyperbaric Chamber

- Tricor**= 145 mg/ day
- Prednisone**= 20 mg 3x/day
- Lipitor**= 20 mg/ day
- Metaglip**=2.5-500mg 5x/day
- Pyridostigm**=60 mg 3x/day
- Cellcept**=250 mg/ day
- Avandia**= 4 mg 2x/day
- Caduet**= 5 mg/ 20 mg/ day
- Zantac**= 150 mg/ day@night
- Lisinopril**= 5 mg/ day
- Ultracet**—for pain
- Insulin**= 70-30 pen= 30 units= 7-10/ day
- Test for sugar**= 8-10x/ day
- IVIG**= 5 days, all day
- + more, but I can’t find bottles!



At 200-400 cases per million MG is one of the less common autoimmune disorders.

Current Medications After Hyperbaric Chamber

- Pyridostigm**=60 mg 6x/day
- Cellcept**=250 mg/ day
- Ultracet**—for pain
- Bayer “Low Dose” 81mg/ day**
- Vitamins**=
- Q*Avail 60mg 2x/ day
- GlucocThera 2x/ day

A Closer Look

What is Myasthenia Gravis?

Myasthenia Gravis (MG) is a neuromuscular disease leading to fluctuating muscle weakness and fatigability. It is an autoimmune disorder, in which weakness is caused by circulating antibodies that block

acetylcholine receptors at the post-synaptic neuromuscular junction, inhibiting the stimulative effect of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine.

The hallmark of *myasthenia gravis* is muscle weakness that increases during periods of activity and improves after peri-

(Continued on page 8)

Media Focus: St. Petersburg Times

By Leonora La Peter Anton
June 1, 2008

Hyperbaric chamber therapy draws hopeful devotees to a St. Petersburg home

[see IHA statement following]

St. Petersburg. Five mornings a week, the sick and injured make a pilgrimage to the living room of a lighting fixture salesman. Babies, shaken, nearly drowned or robbed of air at birth. Men with macular degeneration. Women who have suffered strokes.

They travel from Bosnia and Canada, Kansas and New York, Tampa and New Port Richey to drink in the air from a pair of hyperbaric chambers parked beside a tan leather couch.

A grandmother with pulmonary hypertension sits in one chamber, cradling a grandson born too early. In another, a stepfather with heart problems holds a baby shaken by her biological father.

There are no doctors here. Some people are here against doctor's orders. But it's free, and talk of tiny miracles spill out as parents wait to enter the chambers with their sick children.

The mother of a shaken baby tells how, after two treatments, her daughter's clenched fists opened. A man whose eyesight was almost gone says he can see.

Mark Fowler runs this hyperbaric operation out of his home. He is a prophet in Selama Grotto, a Masonic organization similar to the Shriners that tries to help children with cerebral palsy. His grandson has cerebral palsy.

"I'd think within 70 to 90 treatments, her seizures will stop," Fowler tells the father of a 2-year-old girl with seizures. "That's just a guess. I can't promise you anything, but I can promise you that she'll

be better. Everyone who comes here has a better quality of life. And seizures are almost always a walk in the park."

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy has been around for centuries but it was most commonly used for diving injuries.

"We've had people with strokes nine to 10 years out, who were unable to move their arms and legs, get up and walk."

—Dr. Allan Spiegel

Lainie Armstrong, 37, of Wichita, Kan., and son Chance, 2, lie in a chamber Thursday in the St. Petersburg home of Mark Fowler, who dispenses treatment



JOHN PENDIGRAFT Times

The Food and Drug Administration now approves of its use for 14 different conditions, from gangrene to cyanide poisoning.

But many doctors prescribe it for "off-label" conditions, such as cerebral palsy, cancer, strokes and multiple sclerosis, to the chagrin of others in the medical community who don't think it's been studied enough.

Dr. Allan Spiegel is one of the believers. The neurologist has a steel hyperbaric chamber at his clinic in Palm Harbor. Hospitals typically have this type of chamber, which cost \$100,000 to \$200,000 and reach higher pressures levels.

"We've had people with strokes nine to 10 years out, who were unable to move their arms and legs, get up and walk," Spiegel said. "We've had people with no vision at all gain their vision."

But the treatments can be expensive, \$200 to \$500 an hour in a clinic, and as much as \$1,500 in a hospital. With insurance companies not covering many of the treatments, many people are turning to portable polyethylene chambers like the ones in Fowler's living room, which can run about \$20,000 apiece.

Dr. Paul Harch, a board-certified hyperbaric and emergency medical physician with a practice in New Orleans and Chicago, said an estimated 6,000 portable chambers are in living rooms and clinics around the country. Football players use them after games. Some movie stars have them. They are typically low pressure and can't be elevated beyond four pounds of air per square inch.

"You need a prescription (to get a chamber)," said Harch, author of *The Oxygen Revolution*, "but there's a real underground market for them."

When Fowler is not managing the constant flow of people in his living room, he travels the state selling decorative lighting fixtures and home accessories to retail stores.

His daughter, Shannon Fowler, 33, takes over when he's gone.

Their household is not unlike many others. Shannon gets her three kids ready in the morning. She takes her son, Cyriz, who has cerebral palsy, to the bus stop in his wheelchair just as the first people arrive to use the chamber.

(Continued on page 7)

Hyperbaric chamber therapy continued...

Selama Grotto, the St. Petersburg chapter of the Grottos, bought the first portable hyperbaric chamber six years ago for \$21,000.

Cyriz, now 7, was one of the first to use it. At the time, his seizures came three a minute. Within weeks of using the chamber they disappeared, and he began to eat without his feeding tube for the first time.

Fowler was a member of the organization at the time and today is in charge of members in an area that covers roughly the lower half of Pinellas County.

Back then, Selama Grotto prophesied transported the chamber from home to home for weeks at a time. But Fowler soon realized that more children could be treated if they came to him.

More chambers followed, a second in his living room, one in the home of a Tampa couple with an autistic child who had seizures, another in Pinellas Park for stroke victims.

A white board in Fowler's office keeps the hourly schedule of both hyperbaric chambers in his Lakewood Estates home. Sometimes the family sees as many as 16 people a day.

The first to arrive one day recently was Lorelei, a child from Rome, N.Y., shaken at birth by her biological father. The 5-year-old's feet were stiff as her mother's boyfriend plucked her out of her stroller and entered the chamber through a zipper at the top.

It was her 31st time in the chamber, and her mother, Renee Morgan, has noticed improvement.

Lorelei is happier, and her clenched fists have relaxed. She hasn't thrown up once, and she can sit on her mother's hip. She started eating spoonfuls of applesauce for the first time.

"She's able to move herself around a little bit," said Morgan, 22, who stayed at Ronald McDonald House for the month she was here. "Before, she'd lay there all day. For us that's a really big step."

Inside the hyperbaric chamber, a boy named Chance nestles in the arms of his mother, Lainie Armstrong. Her black T-shirt says: HEROES CAN BE SMALL.

Chance, 2, clutches a tiny stuffed lamb and squirms. As the pressure inside the chamber builds to about four pounds of air per square inch, Chance's little ears begin to pop — about the equivalent of ascending in an airplane. But he's used to it.

"The first few times, he cried really bad," says Armstrong, 37, as Chance peers out of a side port-hole. "So we would back (the pressure) off and not do it so quickly, and after four or five times we had no problems."

She tries to put a tiny mask on him to pump oxygen-rich air into his lungs, the equivalent of receiving about 80 percent pure oxygen. He pushes it away.

Finally, he lays his head on her thigh, his eyelashes flutter and he's asleep. She places the mask on his face and gazes at him.

"I'd do anything within reason for Chance," she says. "I jokingly say if someone said to put butterfly wings on his forehead every day for two weeks, I'd do it."

Chance was born three months premature, at 1 pound, 15 ounces. Doctors told Armstrong he would likely be mentally retarded, have no use of his arms and have problems with his heart, lungs and kidneys.

The single mother, who had Chance by artificial insemination, has tried everything to help him catch up. Back home near Wichita, Kan., where they live with her mother, she gave up her job as a coordinator of high school special-education programs after he was born. She drives Chance to nine different therapies a week.

The boy has been painting acrylics with his fingers and toes since he was a year old. In March, he held his first gallery opening and sold 80 acrylics, raising \$6,000 to get to Fowler's house in St. Peters-

burg for a month's worth of free hyperbaric therapy.

Now days away from leaving, Armstrong can't say enough about the chamber. The boy who had never slept through the night has done so five times since he arrived in St. Petersburg. His legs seem sturdier, and he can stand up and take a step. And he's talking more, even in four-word sentences, something he'd never done before.

Could the success be Chance's natural development?

No, says Armstrong. It's as if his development was suddenly fast-forwarded during the past few weeks. It's been so successful, she's trying to figure out how to get a chamber for their home back in Kansas.

IHA Statement:

As with most media articles, this one is laced with controversial statements that really do mislead the lay man into believing that hyperbaric oxygenation for "off-label" conditions is as questionable as "putting butterfly wings on [ones] forehead."

Indeed, IHA Member Clinics (with licensed doctors on the premises) are seeing very similar results in the populations of autism, cerebral palsy, brain injuries, mitochondrial, stroke, and other neurological, circulatory, and physical conditions. And, readers can take the successes in this article as testament to the power of hyperbaric medicine.

However, the IHA strongly urges patients to seek care from DOCTORS well-versed in hyperbaric medicine and their specialty. In fact, hyperbaric centers with a licensed MEDICAL DIRECTOR in place are a must—for patients' safety and recovery!



"Mundo vitam dare"



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The International Hyperbarics Association, Inc., is a coalition of doctors, parents, patients, corporate chamber-industry professionals, hyperbaric center owners, and above all members who are committed to the cause of medical hyperbarics.

Our members come to us from all geographical areas with one common goal— to share their knowledge regarding the latest hyperbaric news. Our driving force is our members, who are committed to do all we can:

"to give life to the world."

— "Mundo vitam dare"

Testimonial... continued

My situation did not look good. I made up jokes about dying so that people would not worry about me so much...

My wife works at a local bank in Atlantic highlands, and that is where she met Dr. David Dornfeld, and his associate John Svikhart. The doctor told my wife that he would like to see me, to try some new approach on me. After everything I'd already gone through, I felt like a nut, but was still willing to try anything once.

Dr. Dornfeld first took a sample of my hair and sent it to a lab to be analyzed.

The next step was to place me into a hyperbaric chamber. I call it an oxygen chamber. I must admit that I gave my wife

a hard time about going at first, but I went. My condition was horrible. I had sores on my left forearm that were constantly bleeding; black blotches of blood covered my body— as if they were caused by internal bleeding; there was a loss of feeling in my arms, legs and back. I was in bad shape and getting worse.

So I went and tried the chamber. As always, my wife was right! After just 5 sessions in the chamber—1 hour a day for 5 days—the sores on my left arm cleared up, my eyes were wide open and the black blotches were all gone. For the next week, I took myself off the steroids the other doctors had me and on and I continued the treatments with Dr. Dornfeld.

I can now say that I have no need of insulin. By September 2006, I finished my 14th session, and the results even shocked the specialists I had initially been seeing for this disease.

"I can now say that I have no need of insulin... I now feel that there is hope"

I thank God for Dr. Dornfeld. The results he has achieved are fantastic!

As of today, I am regaining feeling in my arms and legs. I am able to use my fingers again. My eyes are wide open, no more blurred vision.

My speech is better, my breathing has improved greatly.

I am not as tired as I was before starting hyperbaric therapy. I can think a lot more clearly now. I'm back to laughing and joking again. I am off almost all medications, except for 3 that I still need, plus 2 vitamins that John, from Dr. Dornfeld's office, gave and which really help.

The best move I ever made—besides marrying Rose, my wife—was to try this oxygen chamber. This is the best that I have felt in months. I now feel that there is hope. This is all true, and I hope that this can help others like it has helped me.

A Closer Look: Myasthenia Gravis continued...

ods of rest. Muscles that control eye and eyelid movement, facial expression, chewing, talking, and swallowing are especially susceptible. The muscles that control breathing and neck and limb movements can also be affected. Often the physical examination is within normal limits.

The onset of the disorder can be sudden or rapid. Often symptoms come and go over time. The diagnosis of *myasthenia gravis* may be delayed if the symptoms are subtle or variable.

In most cases, the first noticeable symptom is weakness of the eye muscles. In others, difficulty in swallowing and slurred speech may be the first signs. The degree of muscle weakness involved in MG varies greatly among patients, ranging from

a localized form, limited to eye muscles (ocular myasthenia), to a severe or generalized form in which many muscles—sometimes including those that control breathing—are affected. Symptoms, which vary in type and severity, may include asymmetrical ptosis (a drooping of one or both eyelids), diplopia (double vision) due to weakness of the muscles that control eye movements, unstable or waddling gait, weakness in arms, hands, fingers, legs, and neck, a change in facial expression, dysphagia (difficulty in swallowing), shortness of breath and dysarthria (impaired speech, often nasal due to weakness of the pharyngeal muscles).

In myasthenic crisis a paralysis of the respiratory muscles occurs,

necessitating assisted ventilation to sustain life. In patients whose respiratory muscles are already weak, crises may be triggered by

infection, fever, an adverse reaction to medication, or emotional stress. Since the heart muscle is stimulated differently, it is never affected by MG.

Blocking autoantibodies cause Myasthenia Gravis

