Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy and Treatment in the Multiplace Chamber

What is hyperbaric oxygen therapy?
Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a medical treatment that promotes wound healing. It involves breathing 100% oxygen while sitting or lying in a chamber that is pressurized.

Why hyperbaric treatments?
In the chamber, large doses of oxygen are dissolved into your blood and body tissues. This increased oxygen promotes wound healing by:
- Stimulating small blood vessel growth, or
- Stopping tissue damage from carbon monoxide poisoning, or
- Helping to heal body tissue after radiation therapy

A hyperbaric doctor will talk with you about the reasons for your treatment. The number of treatments you need depends on your condition and how you respond to treatment.

How often will I have treatments?
Generally, treatments are scheduled daily, Monday through Friday. Plan on being in the department for at least three hours for each treatment. On occasion, you may be treated twice a day. Weekend treatments are based on patient needs.

Free parking is available in the Aurora St. Luke’s parking structure. Free valet service is also available at the main entrance of the building.

Please call the hyperbaric department as soon as possible if you have a cold or flu symptoms (fever of 100° F or higher, cough, runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea or general aching). Your therapy will probably be postponed until the doctor clears you.

Are there restrictions I should follow?
While being treated in hyperbaric you should not use tobacco. Tobacco products of any kind will cause your blood vessels to shrink in size, making treatments less effective. We can refer you to programs that will help you stop smoking. If you cannot stop using tobacco products, your treatments may be stopped.

There are no eating restrictions when receiving hyperbaric treatments. If you are already on a special diet for diabetes, kidney failure, or other reasons, you should continue it.

Do not take any injections within 45 minutes before your hyperbaric treatment. We will review all the medicines you are taking. Hyperbaric treatments should not change the effect of most of your medicines.

What will I wear during my treatments?
Breathing 100% oxygen in the hyperbaric chamber results in an increased risk of fire. You must wear hospital-provided clothing made of 100% cotton or a cotton/polyester blend to reduce static electricity and fire risk. We will give you a gown to change into before your treatment.

For the same safety reasons, no lighters, matches, body warmers, watches, hearing aids, hair spray or make-up, newspapers, electronic devices, cell phones, or any battery-operated items are allowed inside the chamber. Please empty your pockets before treatment.

In the event of a fire, please remain calm and keep your mask on. It will provide you with a fresh air source.

Continued
What should I expect during treatment?
Treatments should be painless. Because of the air pressure changes in the chamber, your ears may have a sense of fullness when the treatment begins. If you feel any pain, please tell the hyperbaric attendant. We will review the steps for “ear clearing” before your treatment.

As with any medical treatment, there are complications that can be a part of hyperbaric treatment. The hyperbaric doctor will discuss these with you and get your consent to start treatments.

We will do dressing changes before or right after the treatment, based on your wound care needs. You will be given an assigned time for care as needed. The hyperbaric doctor will see you as needed, and we will keep the doctor up to date on your progress.

Visual changes can occasionally occur during hyperbaric treatments. Do not buy any new eyeglasses during hyperbaric treatment. In most cases your vision should return to pre-treatment status within 6 to 8 weeks after treatment has stopped.

Please inform the hyperbaric team if you have an implantable device.

Other needs
If dressing changes are needed when the department is closed, we will arrange for home nursing care or instruct someone in your family. If other care arrangements are needed, we may contact our Social Services department.

If you need transportation to or from the hospital, please let us know. We can help arrange for transportation or move your treatment times if needed.

It is your responsibility to verify insurance coverage. We will help you in any way we can through our financial counselor.

Hours
Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5:00pm.

Phone
414-385-2846 Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center Hyperbaric Department.

Voice mail
414-649-6577 Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center

The information presented is intended for general information and educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care provider. Contact your health care provider if you believe you have a health problem. Aurora Health Care is a not-for-profit health care provider and a national leader in efforts to improve the quality of health care.