



## HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY FOR NEUROLOGY

HyOx treats the following approved and covered conditions:

- **Intracranial abscess**
  - Cerebral abscess
  - Subdural empyema
  - Epidural empyema
  - **Referral Protocol:** Immediately, upon diagnosis of multiple abscesses - abscesses in a deep or dominant location, in a compromised host and in situations where (a) surgery is contraindicated, (b) the patient is a poor surgical risk or (c) there's no response or further deterioration with standard surgical treatment (e.g. 1-2 needle aspirates) and antibiotic treatment
- **Concomitant skull osteomyelitis**
  - **Referral Protocol:** Post four to six weeks of antibiotic therapy with no healing progression
- **Central retinal artery occlusion (CRAO)**
  - **Referral Protocol:** Within eight to 24 hours of presenting symptoms before the retinal tissue is irreparably damaged, but up to two weeks for a chance to regain some visual acuity (light/dark)
- **Radiation necrosis (osteoradionecrosis and soft tissue radionecrosis)**
  - **Referral Protocol:**
    - Immediately, upon symptom manifestation of the delayed effects of radiation therapy including persistent edema, bleeding and pain
    - Pre- and post- surgery in a previously radiated area

## Benefits of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy:

- Inhibits the flora (predominantly anaerobic) found in intracranial abscess (1)
- Helps reduce perifocal brain swelling (2) (3)
- Enhances host defense mechanisms (4)
- Helps increase the chances of reversing the ischemic effects of CRAO (to date the only treatment modality with favorable outcomes) within eight hours of symptom onset (5)
- Speeds the recovery of soft tissues and bone affected by radiation therapy's fibro-atrophic effect (6)

### REFERENCES:

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