Replacing conventional radiation therapy by Hyperbaric Oxygen for Cancer treatment

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy – What is it?

Inhaling oxygen in its purest form in a chamber which is sealed after oxygen is pressurized to 2-3 times the normal pressure in the atmosphere is known as HBOT.

There is so far no evidence of cancer cure using the hyperbaric oxygen therapy alone. However, the cancer center strongly supports the benefits of HBOT along with the ongoing cancer treatment for the patient. This therapy combats harmful effects of radiation treatment which is well known to cause a delayed bone damage or osteoradionecrosis and hence compliment the overall cancer treatment.

What are the conditions which improve with HBOT?

- Heat burns
- Anemia
- Wounds which are long standing.
- Clot in the retinal artery.
- Diabetic gangrenes.
- Osteoradionecrosis
- Life threatening poisoning of carbon monoxide.
- Decompression sickness
- Extensive osteomyelitis.
- Localized abscess in brain.
- Other radiation effects on soft tissues.

What is the basic working mechanism of HBOT along with cancer treatment?

At the cancer center, effects of radiotherapy are neutralized by oxygen therapy. Hyperbaric oxygen stops further damage to bones and surrounding tissues, fights the inflammatory exudates and accommodates left over anticipated damage post radiation therapy.

For example, many patients who take radiation therapy for cervical and brain cancer complain of weakness of jaw bone which can be prevented by HBOT. Oxygen rejuvenates the vascular system which was blocked by radiation and reaches out to small blood vessels also.

HBOT also attenuates lymph edema post breast cancer and lymph nodule surgery. As pain and swelling comes down, the adjacent soft tissues become more functional and productive.

Treatment with HBOT

The patient is given oxygen therapy solely or in a group for 90 minutes in a chamber. This room is slowly pressurized to begin with and slowly depressurized to complete the session. Most patients complain of only a slight discomfort.
Imparting maximum oxygen to patient through pure oxygen, ozone or hydro peroxide and glutathione rich foods helps in activating the mitochondria inside the cells and burning the carbohydrates. In the presence of oxygen, this mechanism retards production of cancer cells and makes them less potent.

Not only this, oxygen is transported to other parts of body through the blood stream which further triggers release of growth factors and stem cells to promote healing. Thus Hyperbaric oxygen when given as an adjunctive therapy shows a remarkable improvement in patient’s rate of survival.