

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy in the treatment of wounds, in plastic and reconstructive surgery

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After recalling the mechanism of action of hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) on healing processes, the authors review the principal indications for this technique in plastic and reconstructive surgery, such as crush injuries and acute post-traumatic ischemia of the limbs, skin flaps and skin grafts, when there is a risk of their not taking, and burns. They stress the importance of strict, stratified therapeutic protocols with control of the hyperoxygenation induced by HBO. In the authors' experience, transcutaneous measurements of the partial pressure of oxygen under the hyperbaric atmosphere is a very useful method with a predictive value to determine the indications for treatment with HBO and to monitor its effects.

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