

Any condition that complicates or slows blood flow to the extremities of the body will eventually produce open wounds that are long-term and non-healing.

These wounds may become infected and resistant to all drug treatment. Amputation is the most common response.

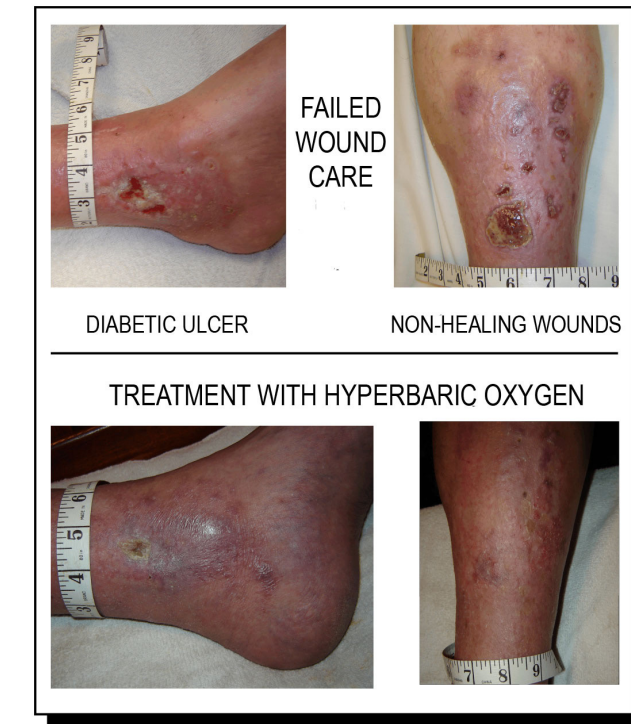
The most common cause of poor blood flow and the resulting open wounds is diabetes.

Diabetes produces unique complications. The most prevalent of these complications is the diabetic ulcer or non-healing / problematic wound. Diabetic ulcers usually involve the foot, hence the medical term of diabetic foot.

The standard care for diabetic ulcers includes a program of wound care, control of diabetes and the treatment of infections. Even so, 25 to 30% of wounds are not healed by these standard practices.

As a result of complications and failure of standard care, diabetics account for upward of 70% of all amputations! A diabetic has a 15-20 times higher chance of having an amputation than a non-diabetic.

Failure of a wound to heal is due to varying degrees of infection and poor blood flow. The common denominator is always hypoxia... the lack of oxygen in tissue. Hypoxia impairs and delays healing which permits time for the infection to set in and proliferate.



Traditional surgical procedures have not solved the problem of non-healing wounds.

Once a diabetic has an ulcer, the rate of re-occurrence is high. After an amputation, the likelihood of another amputation reaches 51%. The mortality following an amputation steadily increases from 39% up to more than 80% over the course of just a couple of years.

Despite acceptance and endorsement of Hyperbaric Oxygen as a viable and effective therapy for non-healing wounds - and the fact that it is covered by health insurance - Hyperbaric Oxygen is drastically under-prescribed and under-utilized.

Insurance reimbursement and payment of medical services are almost twice as much for amputation as that paid for salvage... or saving the patient's limb!

Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) is an internationally accepted and proven treatment that increases the amount of oxygen in tissue.

By increasing the oxygen content in tissue that has inadequate or diminished oxygen supply, there is a specific response:

- Fibroblast replication
- Collagen synthesis
- Capillary angiogenesis
- Neovascularization
- Increased leukocyte activity
- Enhanced antibacterial mechanisms

These are all vital biochemical and physical processes to promote the healing of a wound or ulcer.

In addition to stimulating and enhancing these healing processes Hyperbaric Oxygen...

- ...is an effective antibiotic
- ...potentiates antimicrobial therapy
- ...is bactericidal
- ...is lethal to anaerobic organisms

These are the significant variables that will result in failure of wound healing; all of which are oxygen dependent. By providing oxygen at a cellular level, Hyperbaric Oxygen strengthens these processes and wound healing. The adjunctive use of Hyperbaric Oxygen restores the cellular environment so wound healing and infection protection are enhanced.

When applied to selected problem wounds, Hyperbaric Oxygen can have an effective rate up to 90%...

... that is... over 90% of the time, the patient gets to keep their limb.