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## Contraindications for Hyperbarics Oxygen Therapy

**By editor**

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### \* **Untreated pneumothorax**

\* Taking following drugs:

- **Doxorubicin (Adriamycin)** - A chemotherapeutic drug.

- **Disulfiram (Antabuse)** - Used in the treatment of alcoholism.

- **Cis-Platinum** - A cancer drug.

- **Mafenide Acetate (Sulfamylon)** - Suppresses bacterial infections in burn wounds

### \* **Upper respiratory infections**

- These conditions can make it difficult for the patient to clear their ears, which can result in what is termed sinus squeeze. You can interrupt HBO treatment for a few days while the infection clears or decongestants can be used.

### \* **High fevers**

- In most cases the fever should be lowered before HBO treatment begins.

### \* **Emphysema with CO2 retention**

- This condition can lead to pneumothorax during HBO treatment

### \* **History of thoracic (chest) surgery**

- This is rarely a problem and usually not considered a contraindication. However, there is concern that air may be trapped in lesions that were created by surgical scarring. These conditions need to be evaluated prior to considering HBO therapy.

### \* **Pregnancy**

### \* **Malignant disease**

- It was once believed that HBO therapy and the subsequent increase in oxygen could accelerate the growth of tumors. Current research indicates this is not a concern.

### \* **High blood pressure**

- HBO therapy acts as a vasoconstrictor because it narrows or constricts blood vessels. This results in a patient's blood pressure being raised during treatment. It is not a good idea to continue with HBO therapy if a patient's blood pressure is elevated prior to HBO treatment because the treatment itself can cause it to go even higher.

### \* **Asthma**

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- A patient with acute asthma can be at increased risk. Therefore, we evaluate asthma on a case-by-case basis.

\* **Diabetes**

- HBO therapy can lower a patient's blood sugar level. We recommend that patients diagnosed with diabetes or hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) eat prior to each HBO treatment in order to maintain adequate blood sugar levels during treatment. In the case of diabetic or hypoglycemic patients, our staff tests to determine blood sugar levels prior to each HBO treatment.

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