



“HBOT & Dehydration”

VHA response to a question put forth, regarding the **“safety of HBOT treatments without administering IV fluids during every session, potentially causing adverse effects due to dehydration.”**

Single study found regarding human HBOT exposure:

“Dehydration of a diver during a hyperbaric chamber exposure with oxygen decompression” PMID: 31051063

Conclusions: Hyperbaric conditions are conducive to the dehydration of the diver's body, however to a degree which does not lead to an occurrence of health hazards. Good care for one's health through proper nutrition and hydration are sufficient preventive and protective measures.

Statements from veterinary hyperbaric professionals:

“Of course, we need to be cautious about making general statements with regard to all patients during HBOT as we may not know individual response as far as their hydration state is concerned. With that in mind, we can assume that it is not an issue because so many patients have been treated without giving them fluids during HBOT without adverse effects.”

- D. Geiser DVM, CHT-V

“In my experience I have not seen any relationship between dehydration and the presentation of seizures. I have treated many patients who may have been dehydrated going into the chamber as they were referred from other hospitals, and I am not authorized to give them an IV. Even in these cases, no seizures have occurred.”

- J. Escalante VMD, CHT-V

“I have never had an issue with dehydration during hyperbaric treatments. Many of our patients are ICU cases, renal failure etc. and this has never been a concern.”

- M. Johnson DVM, CCRT, CHT-V

“If a horse has had ready access to water, hydration typically is not something we're concerned with, nor has it been a mitigating factor in any (very few) adverse reactions during HBOT.

We would not ever treat a patient with HBOT if they are dehydrated to the point of concern.” L. Bratcher CHT-V

“Each patient should be assessed by a veterinarian prior to HBOT. If a presenting condition raises concerns regarding hydration, the case is treated accordingly. I have never seen an adverse reaction to HBOT resulting from dehydration. The HBOT treatment duration for animal patients is significantly shorter than exposures for decompression sickness in humans. This means our patients are not removed from water access or IV fluids for long enough to be of concern.”

- S. Hoberg CHT, CHT-V