



Monthly Safety Notice

July 2020

National Baromedical Services, Inc.

Chamber Humidity

Background

A question recently came up about controlling humidity inside the chamber. A patient complained that she felt uncomfortably dry while undergoing treatment and was considering discontinuing her treatment series. Achieving patient comfort to ensure treatment protocol compliance and optimal outcomes is an important goal.

The Issue

Liquid oxygen from our bulk system condenses into a gas as it passes through the vaporizer, then travels through the hospital piping system to our hyperbaric chambers. In that new gas form, it does arrive dry, which is optimal for the efficacy and purity of the chamber operating system. Once released into the acrylic chamber as 100% pure oxygen gas, it becomes somewhat humidified due to the patient's insensible moisture loss from their skin and airway.

Slowing down the flow of the chamber oxygen at the control panel will allow this insensible moisture loss to both warm and humidify the environment.

An additional measure to humidify the chamber during treatment would be to moisten a large cotton towel. Then drape it over the elevated headrest portion of the stretcher, ensuring the oxygen vents on the inside of the chamber door are aimed at the towel. This will allow the moisture on the towel to generate added humidity.

Having open water bottles or sippy cups of water can also contribute to higher humidity.

Bottom Line

If dryness has been a complaint from your patients, then try some of these measures described and your patient should have increased comfort.

Upon completion of the treatment, ensure that any moisture remaining in the chamber is wiped up during the decontamination process and allowed to thoroughly dry before sealing the chamber door.