

Parkinson's Disease: Case studies showing success treating it with HBOT

Parkinson's

5 patients with a history of Parkinson's Disease (PD) were treated with **Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT)** for 1 hour at 1.5-2.0 ATA. All 5 patients reported a decrease in tremors and an improvement in general well-being. The patients underwent an initial course of 10 treatments and were allowed to continue treatment as needed until they perceived a plateau in benefit. The treatment benefit appeared sustained for approximately 1-5 months, and was re-established following additional HBOT. There were no complications. HBOT may be a safe and effective treatment option for patients with PD.

PD is a progressive neurological disorder affecting at least 500,000 people in the United States. Parkinsonian Syndrome (PS) includes the idiopathic or typical PD which accounts for 85% of PS cases, neuroleptic-induced which accounts for 7-9% of PS and is reversible, and other types such as progressive supra nuclear palsy, multiple systems atrophy, corticobasal degeneration, vascular, toxins, and recurrent head trauma, all accounting for less than 10% of cases.

It has been demonstrated that even early stage PD exhibits a subnormal response to hypoxia. A discrepancy in ventilatory response to isocapnic, progressive hypoxic rebreathing in PD patients under minor and severe hypoxia was felt to be due to a dysfunction in chemoreception. The reduction in alveolar ventilation could not be attributed to mechanical restriction of lung function, and was unrelated to whether or not the patient was being treated with dopaminergic drugs.

Case 1:

This physician's 86 year old mother with a 15-year history of PD and tremors at rest, bradykinesia, sleep disturbance, and depression taking 5 medications for PD underwent a course of 10 HBOT at 1.5 ATA. She reported an improvement in well-being and was observed to have a decrease in tremors. She underwent an additional 3 HBOT at 1.5 ATA. The beneficial effects of the treatment appeared to be sustained over the course of the next 4 months.

Case 2:

This 75 year old former corporate vice president with a 6 year history of PD taking dopaminergic drugs with resting tremors, difficulty with balance, and insomnia underwent 20 HBOT at 1.5 ATA and 3 treatments at 1.75 ATA. There was a significant improvement in tremors, balance, and insomnia, which has been maintained for 5 months. The tremors began to return, and the patient underwent 5 additional HBOT treatments with an improvement in symptoms.

Case 3:

This 63 year old former fire fighter with a 6 year history of PD like symptoms diagnosed with PD 4 years ago had discontinued his dopaminergic agents, but continued taking amantadine for his tremors without effect. He underwent 30 HBOT at 2.0 ATA and had a complete resolution of his right hand tremor, which has been maintained for the last 5 months.

Case 4:

This 69 year old practicing physician with a 3 year history of PD on dopaminergic medication had discontinued driving and reported difficulty in writing, episodes of rigidity, and always feeling "washed out". After one HBOT