

What HBOT can do

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy can hasten wound healing by providing oxygen for new tissue production, and by enhancing the action of antibiotics and the immune system. The patient in the photos below, a 36-year-old diabetic male, presented to the Carraway Methodist Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala., with a diabetic foot ulcer and gangrene. After surgery to amputate gangrenous

toes, he began a treatment plan that consisted of 46 HBOT treatments, a six-week course of systemic antibiotics, and four weeks of platelet growth factor therapy, all given simultaneously. As shown below, within four months of amputation, the foot was healed. The patient was fitted for inserts and a filler for his shoes and was able to return to work.



May 20th. The patient presented with a diabetic foot ulcer on the dorsum of his right foot and a gangrenous great toe.



The wound extended into the plantar surface. In addition, necrotic tissue at the site of a previous amputation was observed.



June 3rd. The affected toes were amputated and the foot was debrided back to bleeding tissue.



Immediately after surgery, the patient began HBOT treatment and was treated for osteomyelitis with IV antibiotics and platelet growth factor therapy.



August 19th. Eight weeks after a split-thickness skin graft was performed, it was 95% healed.



September 25th. Less than four months after treatment began, the patient's foot is healed as seen in this view of the plantar surface.

Case study and photos supplied by Lynn L. Scoggins, RN, BSN, a nurse manager on the wound care and hyperbaric medicine unit at Carraway Methodist Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala.