

RADIATION-INDUCED INJURIES

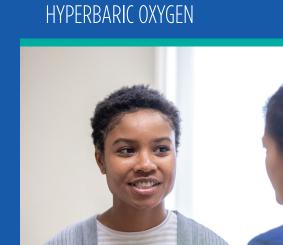
Even with advances in the delivery of radiation therapy, approximately 5% of patients will experience complications within five years of their radiation exposure. Radiation causes injury to soft tissue and bone, leading to hypoxic and/or avascular tissue necrosis. This results in degeneration of blood vessels that continues throughout the patient's life. Patients experiencing this type of soft tissue or bone damage generally experience painful, progressive, and often disabling tissue breakdown.

Our outpatient program focuses on chronic and non-healing wounds. Using advanced treatment modalities and an integrative therapy model, we help patients improve their quality of life. In partnership with physicians, nurses, and multiple medical disciplines, we provide invaluable care for patients.





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An adjunctive therapy to help heal radiation-induced injuries



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HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY IMPROVES RADIATION INJURY OUTCOMES

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) is one of the most-studied and frequently reported therapies in the treatment of delayed radiation injuries.

The three key beneficial effects of hyperbaric oxygen therapy in treating irradiated tissue include:

- Stimulates angiogenesis through establishing wound tissue oxygen gradients
- Improves tissue oxygenation
- Decreases fibrosis of tissue

The goal of HBOT is to provide adequate granulation to support spontaneous or surgically supported wound healing.



TREATMENT SCENARIOS:

Soft Tissue Radionecrosis: Persistent soft tissue/integumentary breakdown within a previously irradiated field that has failed conservative or surgical management, such as a flap placement into a radiated area.

Other examples include:

- Radiation cystitis
- Radiation proctitis
- Vaginal radionecrosis

Osteoradionecrosis: Necrosis of the mandible

REFERRAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- History of radiation exposure
- Exposed bone and pain in the mouth
- ${\boldsymbol{\cdot}}$ Bleeding from the rectum or the bladder
- Radiation cystitis with resulting symptoms
- Radiation proctitis with resulting symptoms



