

Hyperbaric Therapy In Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

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The aim of this study was to determine if hyperbaric oxygen treatment (HBOT) could be used as adjunctive therapy and if HBOT could increase the quality of life in such a way that the functional status would improve in patients with an infection. A randomized, controlled trial was conducted on 15 Mycoplasma sp. infected patients with CFS (CDC criteria '94) and 14 CFS patients with no evidence of a Mycoplasma infection [who] were enrolled in a convenience randomization sample from our referral clinic. No statistical differences were found by use of univariate repeated measures although Bodily Pain as measured by the SF-36 seems to decrease after hyperbaric therapy ($p=.010$).

Trends were found using paired t-testing for Mycoplasma infected CFS patients. The general perceived fatigue seemed to decrease after hyperbaric therapy ($p=.06$). Directly after one week of hyperbaric therapy, general fatigue improved ($p=.03$) but there was a reduction of activity ($p=.05$) and general perceived health ($p=.04$). One month later the physical role scores increased ($p=.07$). More marked improvements were found in the subset with mycoplasma.