

Wounds

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Applications of hyperbaric oxygen in otolaryngology head and neck surgery: facial cutaneous flaps.

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Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is of significant benefit in the setting of an ischemic flap of the head and neck. Mechanistically, hyperbaric oxygen decreases local tissue edema and improves oxygen delivery to compromised tissues. Both capillary and fibroblast in-growth occur at a greater rate with hyperbaric oxygen therapy, and there is an increase in the tensile strength of the wound. Additional indications in the head and neck include traumatic composite amputations, necrotizing soft-tissue infections, and osteoradionecrosis of the facial skeleton.

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