Northwestern

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Inflammatory Bowel Diseases

Parambir S. Dulai, MD Associate Professor of Medicine Director of GI Clinical Trials Director of Precision Medicine Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Feinberg School of Medicine Northwestern University

Disclosures

Funding: NIDDK U34/U01 Grant

Off Label Discussion: Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is not FDA approved for use in inflammatory bowel disease

Inflammatory Bowel Diseases – Background and Pathogenesis





Northwestern

Glover L et al. Gastroenterology 2011; Gonzalez CG et al. Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology 2023

Does Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Have a Role in Treating IBD?





Safety and Efficacy HBOT in IBD

Adverse Events	Rate
Overall	10/10,000 sessions
Serious AE	6.7/10,000 sessions

IBD Type	Response Rate
Ulcerative Colitis	85%
Crohn's Disease	88%

Event	IBD	Other Indications	IRR (95% CI)
Middle Ear Barotrauma	1.1/10,000 sessions	29/10,000 sessions	0.04 (0.01 – 0.23)
Psychological Intolerance	6.7/10,000 sessions	30/10,000 sessions	0.23 (0.08 – 0.54)

Gaps in Evidence to Support Integration of HBOT for IBD?

- Limitations in measurement of disease activity
 - Imaging for fistulae healing
 - Endoscopy for mucosal (intestinal) healing

- High-quality clinical trials
 - Blinded to intervention and outcome
 - Sham hyperbaric treatment

Crohn's Disease – Perianal Fistulae

- Prospective observational cohort study
 - 21 Crohn's disease
 - Active perianal fistulae
 - 40 daily HBOT sessions
 - MRI based assessment
 - Biomarkers of inflammation
 - Clinical assessment (PDAI)



Crohn's of the Pouch



Northwestern

Dulai et al. *AP&T* 2014; Fahad H, Dulai PS, et al *CGH* 2020; Hasan B et al. *IBDJ* 2020

Treatment of UC patients ²⁰23 hospitalized for acute flares in 2005

- 50% of UC patients will be hospitalized
- ~40% will fail to respond to IV steroids
- 2nd line therapies (infliximab, cyclosporine, colectomy) associated with significant costs, adverse events, and mortality of up to 5%
- Excluded from traditional pharmaceutical trials
- Need exists for novel therapeutic strategies

Hyperbaric oxygen for toxic megacolon (1998)





Before Hyperbaric Oxygen

After Hyperbaric Oxygen

Northwestern

Katsuro K et al. *Lancet* 1998

Phase 2A Sham-Controlled, Double-Blind, Clinical Trial Hospitalized UC Patients with Moderate-Severe Flares



Northwestern

Dulai et al. AJG 2018

Patient Demographics

	HBOT (n=10)	Sham (n=8)	p value
Gender, male	4 (40%)	5 (63%)	0.64
Age, median (IQR)	47 (40 – 57)	31 (22 – 43)	0.26
Treatment upon enrollment			
High dose steroids (> 20mg/day)	8 (80%)	7 (88%)	1.00
Immunomodulator	5 (50%)	2 (25%)	0.37
Anti-TNF	5 (50%)	5 (63%)	0.66
Baseline Labs			
Hg, mean (± SD)	11.7 (± 1.1)	12.1 (± 2.6)	0.72
Platelets, median (IQR)	314 (252 – 495)	413 (341 – 508)	0.40
Albumin, mean (± SD)	3.3 (± 0.45)	3.5 (± 0.45)	0.23
CRP, median (IQR)	81 (14 – 143)	10 (7 – 66)	0.13
ESR, median (IQR)	38 (31 – 68)	39 (28 – 42)	0.48
Baseline Clinical Assessment			
Full Mayo, mean (SD)	9.9 (± 1.5)	10.9 (± 1.1)	0.14
Partial Mayo, mean (SD)	7.4 (± 1.2)	8.3 (± 0.9)	0.10
Severe Endoscopy (Mayo endoscopy sub-score 3), n	5 (50%)	5 (63%)	0.66

Northwestern

Dulai et al. AJG 2018

Treatment Outcomes	HBOT (n=10)	Sham (n=8)	P value
Day 5 Clinical Remission	50%	0%	0.04
Day 10 Clinical Remission	50%	0%	0.04
Day 10 Clinical Response	80%	25%	0.05
Day 10 Endoscopic Remission	50%	13%	0.15
In-hospital 2 nd line therapy (biologics or colectomy)	10%	63%	0.04

Day 5 clinical remission: partial Mayo score ≤ 2 points, no sub-score > 1 point.

Day 10 clinical remission: Full Mayo score ≤2 points, no sub-score > 1 point which includes the endoscopic sub-score. Day 10 endoscopic remission: Mayo endoscopic sub-score 0 or 1.

Maximum Benefit at Day 5



Northwestern

Dulai et al. AJG 2018

Phase 2B Dose-Finding Trial



Northwestern

Dulai et al. *AP&T* 2020

Demographics

	HBOT treated UC (n=20)
Age, mean years (SD)	37 (15)
Male gender, n (%)	10 (50%)
Pancolitis*, n (%)	17 (85%)
Prior IM, n (%)	18 (90%)
Prior TNF antagonist, n (%)	15 (75%)
Prior Vedolizumab, n (%)	7 (35%)
Prior Tofacitinib, n (%)	5 (25%)
Mayo endoscopic sub-score of 3, n (%)	17 (85%)
CRP, median mg/dL (IQR)	14.4 (3-51)
Albumin, median mg/dL (IQR)	3.5 (3.1-3.6)

Northwestern

Dulai et al. AP&T 2020

5 days superior to 3 days for response



Rate of re-hospitalization at 3 months: 10% for day 3 responders (expected rate of 26% based on literature)

Northwestern

Dulai et al. AP&T 2020

HBOT Cost-Effective in UC

- Microsimulation Model
- 5-year horizon with modeling of uncertainty for efficacy and natural history
- HBOT Cost-Effective (\$43,000 per QALY)
- Significant reduction in use of inpatient second line therapies and disease modification
 - colectomy, re-hospitalization, and mortality



Northwestern Gonzalez C...Dulai PS. Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology 2022

Reduction in Mucinophiles



Northwestern Gonzalez C...Dulai PS. Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology 2022



Moderate-Severe Ulcerative Colitis

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy



Northwestern Gonzalez C...Dulai PS. Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology 2022

Gaps for ASUC Trials

Clinical trial design considerations for hospitalized patients with ulcerative colitis flares and application to study hyperbaric oxygen therapy in the NIDDK HBOT-UC consortium



Dulai PS, et al. Aliment. Pharmacol. Ther.

AP&T



HBOT for IBD

Safe and well tolerated

 Evidence exists for efficacy, particularly for Crohn's fistulae and hospitalized UC

• High quality RCTs underway for ASUC