

# Nonprofit Funds Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for a Veteran's Double Shoulder Surgery



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Whether major or minor, undergoing surgery is a daunting prospect, and the possibility of a lengthy recovery process is among the chief concerns of most patients. The good news is that Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) can provide tremendous benefit to patients both before and after surgery.

HBOT is a noninvasive medical treatment that works by increasing the oxygen concentration in all body tissues. In areas that have been compromised by surgical trauma, HBOT stimulates the growth of new blood vessels that assist in bringing more oxygen to the cells of the damaged tissue. This supplies the nourishment necessary for wound healing, reducing pain and swelling. Hyperbaric oxygen also has an antibacterial effect, which helps fight the infections that can occur after surgery.

An added bonus of HBOT for postsurgical use is that many patients have far less scarring at the surgical site than patients who did not elect

to receive HBOT treatments before or after surgery. With the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, the body has plenty of oxygen to repair and close up a wound site, leading to smaller and less noticeable scars. This is especially beneficial for people who have surgery on visible parts of their bodies. Reduced scarring can eliminate questions and make patients less self-conscious about the appearance of their body. Hyperbaric oxygen is particularly good for patients who have difficulty healing. These patients include smokers and those who are overweight or have suppressed immune systems, among others.

The use of HBOT in surgical and cosmetic procedures may involve 2 to 3 treatments prior to surgery to stimulate and enhance the normal functions of the skin. The subsequent 5 to 10 postsurgery treatments will result in the benefits noted above. Each session of HBOT treatment is 60 minutes. Healthy people treated with HBOT before and after surgery can heal up to 75% to 80% faster, allowing them to return to work and life sooner. For anyone planning to undergo surgery—whether medically necessary, cosmetic, or oral—it is beneficial to inquire about receiving hyperbaric oxygen therapy sessions before and/or after surgery.

Oxygen Oasis patient Louis Namm is an Army veteran who served in Vietnam. Louis is a double amputee who was scheduled for double shoulder surgery on two different dates. He was able to treat with HBOT before and after surgery due to a generous donation made to Chambers for Hope from an Oxygen Oasis patient along with the remainder donated from another nonprofit.

**Testimonial – Patient, Louis Namm**  
*“My physical therapist and I believe the hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) treatments I had at Oxygen Oasis prior to surgery helped prepare my left shoulder by giving the surgeon healthy bone and tissue to work with. After the surgery, my physical therapist felt the hyperbaric treatment was a big reason for the expedited healing process. HBOT helped the bone heal quicker and more efficiently and allowed the muscle tissue surrounding the surgery site to become healthy and strong. As a result, HBOT played a big part in my ability to rehabilitate the shoulder faster and with less pain than if I had not received the treatment. The physician who performed the surgery was impressed with the quick recovery time of my therapy. Throughout the rehab process, I was always ahead of the rehab treatment. I noticed after an hour of physical therapy and treating in the hyperbaric chamber, the soreness in my left shoulder dissipated, and the pain in my right shoulder felt better.*

*I will undergo joint reversal surgery on my right shoulder shortly. Given the outcome of my previous surgery, I will avail myself of five preoperative and*

*15 postoperative HBOT treatments. This will allow me to recover quickly and feel as I did following the previous surgery. This is paramount to me, as I am recently retired and am anxious to get back to a normal way of life full of activities.”*

Chambers for Hope (CFH) is a North Carolina-based 501c3 nonprofit organization that offers financial assistance to veterans and first responders seeking HBOT as a supplemental treatment to their existing medical protocol. The Chambers for Hope Network consists of quality HBOT clinics throughout the U.S.

Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center, located in Langhorne, PA, is a member of the Chambers for Hope Network and serves the Bucks County and surrounding (Mid-Atlantic) area.

Under the leadership of its owner, Victoria Bliss-Calkins, Oxygen Oasis obtained accreditation from the Joint Commission, meaning that Oxygen Oasis has met the highest standards for quality and safety of care. Physician oversight is one of the many requirements for admission to the Chambers for Hope Network. Medical Director Benjamin Lam, DO, FACOS, and his team (physicians

Scott Rosenthal, DO and Patrick Fall, DO) provide quality assessment and follow-up for all HBOT treatments.

Chambers for Hope helps fund HBOT treatments for veterans and first responders at Oxygen Oasis. For more information and to fill out an application, please visit: <http://www.chambersforhope.org/veterans-first-responders.html>.

Please visit [www.o2oasis.com](http://www.o2oasis.com) for a library of evidence-based studies and reviews of hyperbaric medicine. On Oxygen Oasis' website, you can also view the full range of services available, as well as information about what to expect before, during, and after treatment with HBOT. Browse the profiles of our staff of experienced physicians and hyperbaric technicians and use the Contact Us section for any questions you may have about therapy or to schedule an appointment.



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