Health Medicine

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Lyme Disease



By Victoria Bliss-Calkins, CEO, Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center and Staff

Dubbed "the great mimicker" for its tendency to be misdiagnosed as other illnesses, Lyme disease is known to affect thousands of people throughout the world, but the actual number of sufferers may be 5 to 10 times greater.

What is Lyme disease?

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that is usually transmitted via the bite of an infected tick. Lyme infections have been reported in all 50 states most commonly in the Northeast—as well as in numerous other countries.

Symptoms of Lyme disease

The symptoms of Lyme disease include fever, flu symptoms, headaches, fatigue, and muscle and joint pain. Lyme disease is often, but not always, accompanied by a rash that looks like a bull's-eye at the site of a tick bite. It's important to obtain an accurate diagnosis soon after a suspected tick bite since a misdiagnosis can result in early-stage Lyme disease developing into a more-serious problem, such as late-disseminated Lyme.

Late-disseminated Lyme can cause immune-system dysfunction, nervous system disorders, cognitive disorders, chronic sleep troubles, cardiac problems, and even personality and mood swings. While latedisseminated Lyme is not fatal, symptoms can be so disabling that many patients become bed-ridden.

What can Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy do for Lyme disease?

In addition to antibiotics, physicians will often prescribe hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) as a treatment to help patients fight Lyme disease. This is because the bacterium that causes Lyme disease is known as "anaerobic," which means it cannot exist in oxygen. One of the primary benefits of HBOT is an increase in oxygen levels within your body, which can ultimately cause a reduction in harmful bacteria.

Benefits of HBOT in the treatment of Lyme disease include increased energy, relief from pain, restored cognitive function, and a normalizing of organs and glands to force out toxins and other impurities.

Testimonial: Mother shares her son's journey recovering from Lyme disease

"I would like to start our story by expressing my sincere gratitude for all the wonderful people working at Oxygen Oasis. We are deeply thankful for the genuine care and emotional comfort that we found while my son was receiving treatment here.

Our family's Lyme saga began when a tick bit our son when he was 4½ years old. Prior to that, he was fully functional and spoke two languages, loved playing with friends, and was a sweet and social child.

848 Town Center Drive • Langhorne, PA 19047 215-352-3720 • www.o2oasis.com After the tick bite, my child's health started declining in all aspects. At first, the changes were subtle, but we as parents started noticing unusual behavioral changes, distraction, and sensory issues that were never present before. At around 7 years old, the changes in his health became more pronounced as he started losing skills and academic abilities.

We desperately visited more than 40 healthcare professionals in 3 different countries, and every possible test was done; but even the "best" doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong with our child. By this time, he was not able to play with friends anymore and had lost his speech.

By the will of God, we visited one more specialist who ordered the right labs. Tests came back positive for multiple tickborne infections. At 8 years old, he was started on an aggressive antibiotic therapy, which helped to some degree with certain symptoms, but his progress eventually plateaued.

His doctor revised the treatment protocol and suggested starting HBOT. It was a totally new approach, as we had never heard about HBOT before. We did our research to find out more. I read articles and books explaining how HBOT works, visited online forums with people sharing their post-HBOT experiences, and, most importantly, read a study conducted by Dr. William Fife of Texas A&M University, which was very detailed and promising.

With the help of our beloved church, we were able to start the therapy at Oxygen Oasis Hyperbaric Wellness Center, a new state-of-theart hyperbaric center.

When we first walked into the center, we were immediately immersed in an atmosphere of emotional comfort and trust. The doctors and staff are extremely professional and knowledgeable and possess all the qualities that we, as parents, were hoping for. The technicians are not only smart and well educated but are also warm, friendly, and caring people.

When I first met the owner of the center, I was touched by her kindness and compassion. She was always attentive to our needs and supported us all the way through our healing journey. With the help of HBOT, my son regained many of his lost skills. He got his speech, his smile, and his playful personality back. The difference between before the treatments and after is so dramatic that it seems like a miracle. What's most important is that we are still seeing the improvements continue even though the therapy is finished.

Oxygen Oasis has the most professional, caring, and experienced staff we ever encountered at a medical facility. They go above and beyond their patients' expectations in every possible way.

Coming here and receiving the treatment at this absolutely wonderful facility was the best decision we made—our child is now on the road to recovery."

Please visit www.o2oasis. com for a library of evidence-based studies of hyperbaric medicine. You can also view the full range of services available, as well as information about what to expect before, during, and after treatment and use the Contact Us section for any questions or to schedule an appointment.

