

The discipline of hyperbaric therapy is still in its infancy in veterinary medicine. The authors of an abstract concerning the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) in the healing of full thickness mesh grafts on the equine distal limb, reviewed at the recent annual AAEP meeting, have concerns that many veterinarians interpreted the results to mean that HBOT was contra-indicated in equine wounds. This project utilized one treatment protocol in one set of circumstances (healthy graft, healthy wound). It is well known that HBOT is very effective in treating human wounds, especially compromised, unhealthy wounds. This study strictly looked at uncompromised full thickness mesh skin grafts placed on uncompromised fresh and granulating wounds. To conclude that HBOT is contra-indicated in equine wounds based on this study is unjustified. It is our opinion that hyperbaric medicine is one new discipline that will prove to be extremely successful as an adjunctive, and in some diseases, a primary therapy in veterinary medicine. Allot more work still needs to be done.