



MEDICINA HIPERBÁRICA

Dra. Nina Subbotina

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Buenos Aires, Argentina

altunar@uolsinectis.com.ar

387 pages plus illustrations

This may be a first for the UHMS – a review of a hyperbaric medicine textbook written in Spanish. However, the quality of this work and the potential impact it will have on Spanish-speaking hyperbaric practitioners makes this review relevant to all UHMS members. In addition, although the book was published in 2006 it still remains one of the best and most comprehensive publications on the practice of hyperbaric medicine written in the Spanish language.

Both the writing style and the topics presented reflect the author's long and varied experience in the field. Dra. Subbotina is a graduate of Russia's First Moscow Medical Institute and was trained as a specialist in hyperbaric medicine in the Moscow Barocenter. Her career has been international, however, and she is presently the director of Hyperbaric Medicine Center Buenos Aires - Hipercámaras SA, a position she has held since 1998.

Dr. Subbotina's medical training, experience and review of the hyperbaric scientific literature (including articles in English, Russian, French German and Spanish) give this work a wide breadth of content yet a cohesiveness frequently unseen in multiauthored textbooks. It is, in fact, very easy to read.

The chapters follow the pattern of most general medical textbooks, beginning with discussions related to medical history and basic physiology. Later sections address clinical pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment. The early pages on the physiology of hypoxia, hyperoxia, and oxidative stress are particularly accessible, useful and well referenced. Likewise, the chapters on wound healing, the diabetic foot, radiation-induced lesions, carbon monoxide intoxication and infections treated using HBO₂ will be very helpful to physicians who are new to the field.

These sections are well written, plus they explore evidence relating to approved as well potential uses for hyperbaric therapy, important information in forming an evidence-based practice. The two chapters on diving medicine give a good introduction to the problems a practitioner might encounter. They are brief, however, and the major focus of this textbook is on wound healing, not diving medicine.

Finally, there are introductory chapters on hyperbaric chamber technology and the economics (cost/benefit) of hyperbaric therapy. Both chapters provide useful starting points for readers who wish to explore these topics further.

In summary, this is a well-written and well-referenced book that should be considered a useful addition to the library of any hyperbaric practitioner, no matter what his/her primary language might be. Dr. Subbotina is to be commended for her hard work and dedication to the field.

Jake Freiburger, M.D., MPH

Duke University Medical Center • Duke Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Environmental Physiology • Duke Dive Medicine
Durham, North Carolina