

Transcutaneous Oximetry Testing and Interpretation


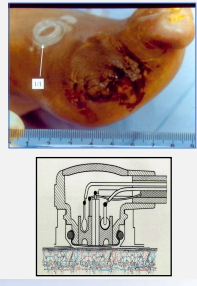
Dick Clarke, CHT

Transcutaneous Oximetry's Evidence-Based Importance

Pro-Con analysis of hyperbaric wound referral vascular screening options

Primary Training in Hyperbaric Medicine
Columbia, South Carolina

Non-invasive physiologic assessment of skin microcirculatory oxygenation

Non-Invasive POC Extremity Arterial Screening Options

- Blood pressure
- Blood flow
- Tissue oxygen saturation
- Wound tissue thermal reflectance
- Transcutaneous tissue oxygen tension

Laying the framework

HBO therapy routinely employed in the management of diabetic foot ulcers

HBO DFU efficacy & effectiveness data conflicting

HBO costly, frequently involves many weeks/several month commitment, not without risk

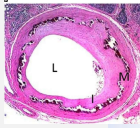
Even reviews favorably disposed to HBO therapy uniformly argue for better patient selection

Emerging NIRS & LWIR thermography technologies

Tissue viability, limb preservation & wound healing a function of oxygen availability

Blood pressure & blood flow common oxygen delivery surrogates

Blood pressure may be normal during development of calcinosis > falsely elevated ABI & reduced flow secondary to wall thickening > undiagnosed low O2 delivery



Blood flow may be normal while its oxygen content is not > undiagnosed low O2 delivery

anatomic and/or physiologic dead space > ventilation-perfusion mismatch
physiologic shunt per ARDS, pulmonary edema, alveolar collapse, pulmonary AVM
anemia; elevated altitudes

Risk factors for diabetic amputation

Pathophysiologic Factor	Odds Ratio
Cutaneous circulation tcpO ₂ < 20 vs. > 40mmHg	161
Peripheral arterial circulation Doppler ABI < 0.45 vs. 0.70	55.8
Neuropathy lacking distal vibratory sense	15.1
Ulcers become infected	10.1

Reiber GE, et al. 1992
Ann. Int. Med. 117:91-103

THE HYPERBARIC MEDICINE SERVICE

TRANSCUTANEOUS OXYGEN SCREENING

Name: _____ Date: _____

Regular Physician: _____

You have just undergone a transcutaneous oxygen study of:

Both feet

Your left foot

Your right foot

This test examines the amount of oxygen present in the skin. This information represents an indirect assessment of the health of both the larger blood vessels in your legs and the smaller ones in your feet.

It is a screening test, which means that additional tests may be necessary, depending upon the results. The information obtained here should be discussed with your regular doctor. You will be responsible for any decision to proceed with further testing, or clinical care. We have attached several articles that describe the importance of this test in the evaluation of risk for healing, compression, for the benefit of your doctor. Thank you for stopping by!

FINDINGS

Both feet: _____ Right foot: _____

Left foot: _____ Left foot: _____

Normal exam > 40 mmHg
There is a normal transcutaneous oxygenation.

Borderline exam 30 - 39 mmHg
Oxygen levels fall within the borderline (borderline) range, and do not represent a normal oxygenation.

Abnormal exam < 30 mmHg
Oxygen levels are below the normal oxygenation range, and may indicate the presence of any wound or injury.

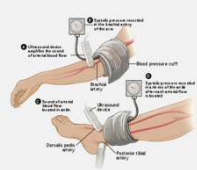
For additional information, please call the Hyperbaric Medicine Service at _____

Blood Pressure

Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI)

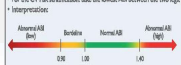
1.0-1.2/1.4 normal exam
 0.9-0.99 borderline exam +/- irregularity; "clinically acceptable"
 0.8-0.9 modest impairment; identify & manage risk factors
 0.5-0.8 greater impairment (50-80% perfusion); specialist referral
 < 0.5 severe disease (< 50% perfusion); specialist referral

> 1.2/1.4 abnormal exam c/w incompressible vessels
 clinically significant calcification may be present prior 1.0



2. How to Interpret the ABI?

- For diagnosis of PAD interpret each leg separately (see ABI per leg).
- For the CV risk stratification take the lowest ABI between the two legs.
- Asymptomatic:



European Society Vascular Surgery 2018

Blood Pressure

Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI)

Strengths

- Long-standing most widely recognized/employed screening tool
- Relative ease of testing; not operator dependent
- Standardized interpretation largely c/w MRI/MRA findings


Weaknesses

- Only assesses macro-vasculature
- Doesn't localize disease
- Doesn't assess below level of ankle cuff
- No information related to oxygen delivery

Blood Pressure

Toe-Brachial Index (TBI)

0.7 essentially normal exam
 < 0.7 c/w arterial occlusive disease



Blood Pressure


Toe-Brachial Index (TBI)

Strengths

- Assesses all-important foot/digits
- Relative ease of testing; not operator dependent

Weaknesses

- Poor consensus re threshold values
- Not obtainable with Hallux; Ray; Ray revision; TMA amputations
- Confounded by calcification; no formal elevated index guidance
- No information related to oxygen delivery




© Robert A. Christman

Blood Pressure

Skin Perfusion Pressure (SPP)

Minimum BP required for restoration of microcirculatory & capillary flow
 Laser light strikes RBCs as flow resumes > Doppler (wavelength shift) effect
 Interrogates shifted & unshifted light; places arbitrary value on shifted light = RBCs

50-100 mmHg considered normal range
 30-50 mmHg marginal ischemia +/- PAD symptoms
 < 30 mmHg CLI; wound healing/limb preservation problematic



Vasamed Sensilase

Blood Pressure

Skin Perfusion Pressure

Strengths

- Unaffected by calcification
- Unaffected by mild-moderate edema
- Can be used when TBI not possible
- Assesses microcirculation

Weaknesses

- Pressure responses & predictive aspects poorly validated
- No information related to oxygen delivery

Blood Flow

Doppler Ultrasound/Ultrasonography

- Pulsed sound waves transmitted to area of interest
- Undergoes Doppler (shift in pitch) effect when bouncing off moving objects
- Returning sound interrogated to determine RBC speed & direction

Lifedop L250

Blood Flow

Doppler Ultrasound/Ultrasonography

Strengths

- Widely accepted & ubiquitous screening device
- Accurate & reliable
- Simple to use
- Unaffected by vessel calcification & very low flow rates

Weaknesses

- Resolution not great enough for microcirculation
- No information related to oxygen delivery

Blood Flow

Laser Doppler Flowmetry (LDF)

- Another Doppler-based technology; near infrared low power laser light
- Interchangeable probes for shallow & deeper penetration
- Assesses velocity & direction of RBCs
- Filters out reflected unshifted/scattered light ("noise")
- Generates proportional shifted light scale as estimate of flow

Laser Doppler Flowmetry (LDF)

Blood Flow

Laser Doppler Flowmetry

Strengths

- Accurate & reliable; hematocrit WNL
- Simple to use
- Unaffected by vessel calcification & very low flow rates

Weaknesses

- Arbitrary perfusion scale (1-10) as flow surrogate
- Susceptible to hematocrit changes
- Signal return may include RBCs flowing below skin
- No information related to oxygen delivery

Local Tissue Oxygen Saturation

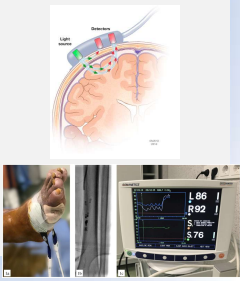
Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS)

- Emits light (just outside visible spectrum) to area of interest
- Detects various reflective light spectrum differences
- Selectively measures OxyHb & DeoxyHb reflectance values
- Calculates percent "tissue" oxygen saturation

Local Tissue Oxygen Saturation

Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS)

- Introduced as continuous non-invasive monitoring of brain tissue oxygen saturation (StO₂)
- Employment increasingly suggested elsewhere
- Longer wavelengths being researched




Somanetics INVOS

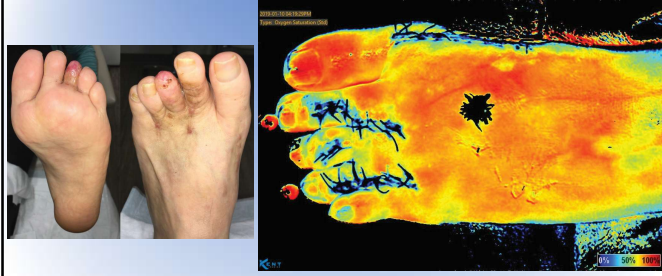
Local Tissue Oxygen Saturation

Near Infrared Imaging (NIR)

- Battery-operated, handheld device
- Single "snapshot" vs. continuous monitoring
- Initially two manufacturers: NIR vs. visible light
- Measures OxyHb, DeOxyHb > calculates StO₂



Snapshot NIR



With permission: Today's Wound Clinic/Kent Imaging

practice

Comparing near infrared spectroscopy and transcutaneous oxygen measurement in hard-to-heal wounds: a pilot study

"The gold standard for assessing oxygenation is TCOM."

TCOM has several drawbacks:
 Time/labor intensive
 Room temp must be between 68-72°F
 Probes cannot be placed in wound bed
 Disposable are expensive

Advantages of NIRS vs. TCOM
 Non-invasive
 Does not require skin contact
 Does not require spectrophotometry
 Immediate real-time data, avoiding delay in treatment regimen

NIRS derived mmHg O₂: electromagnetic light reflectance from IR wavelengths measured by a patented computer interface algorithm to generate calculated OxyHb level which is mathematically converted to StO₂, that is then mathematically converted to pO₂ using standard Severinghaus dissociation curve

TCOM derived mmHg O₂: direct measurement free oxygen that diffuses to skin surface

Conclusion: Data suggests TCOM overestimates O₂ measurements vs. NIRS

Serena TE, et al. Journal Wound Care 2020;29(6)

Local Tissue Oxygen Saturation

Near Infrared Imaging (NIR)

Strengths

- Battery-operated handheld; high image storage capacity
- Uniquely assesses regional StO₂
- Ease of use/interpretation; touch screen display StO₂ values
- Suggested healing response tracker

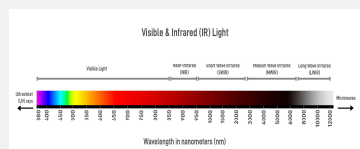

Weaknesses

- Does not measure tissue oxygenation
 So, no assessment plasma-borne oxygen delivery (basis for HBO)
- Unable to direct HBO case management as per tcPO₂
- Presently ill-defined normal/abnormal StO₂ values; some crossover
- Presently unclear as to clinical relevance wound StO₂

Wound Thermal Reflectance

Long-Wave Infrared Thermography (LWIT)

Visible & Infrared (IR) Light


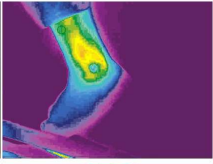




Wound Thermal Reflectance

Detects & maps thermal energy created by cellular metabolism

Reflects relative state of/changes in perfusion compared to healthy tissue

Does change (increase) in thermal reflectance indicate healing response?

Wound Vision Scout

With permission: M. Heyboer, SUNY

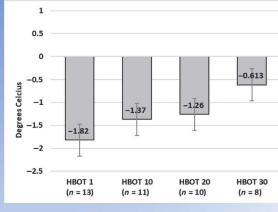
ORIGINAL ARTICLE | CLINICAL SCIENCE

Pilot study: Utility of long-wave infrared thermography as a correlate to transcutaneous oximetry for candidates of hyperbaric oxygen therapy

Martha Heyboer MD¹ | Andrew G. Kowalek MD¹ | Lauren D. Powell BS¹ | Susan M. Whigham PhD²

Abstract

Hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) has been used as an adjunctive treatment for the care of patients with nonhealing wounds. HBO is thought to stimulate wound healing through multiple mechanisms, including increased oxygen delivery to the wound site. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the utility of long-wave infrared thermography (LWIR) as a correlate to transcutaneous oximetry (TCOM) for patients with nonhealing wounds. We hypothesized that patients with nonhealing wounds would have lower TCOM values and higher LWIR values compared to patients with healing wounds. We evaluated 40 patients with nonhealing wounds and 40 patients with healing wounds. TCOM values were significantly lower in the nonhealing group compared to the healing group (p < 0.001). LWIR values were significantly higher in the nonhealing group compared to the healing group (p < 0.001). There was no significant difference in the change in TCOM or LWIR values between the two groups over the course of the study. These data suggest that LWIR may be a useful adjunctive tool to TCOM in the evaluation of patients with nonhealing wounds. Further research is needed to determine the utility of LWIR as a screening tool for patients with nonhealing wounds.



Heyboer M, et al. Wound Repair Regeneration 2022; 1-7

Wound Tissue Thermal Reflectance

Strengths

- Battery-operated handheld, ease of operation
- Directly measures changes in wound/tissue thermal energy
- Preliminary data...correlates with TCOM improvement during ulcer healing
- High quality evidence: Detects pre-visual temp. anomalies before visual pressure injuries

Weaknesses

- Possible confounding factor peri-HBO changes in environmental temperature
- Value as a wound management/hyperbaric screening tool not yet quantified


Transcutaneous Tissue Oxygen Tension

Transcutaneous Oximetry (TCOM)

Air breathing tcpO₂ values at 1.0 ATA offer no useful healing prediction
progressively decreasing values likewise offer no specific guidance identifies local hypoxia

Oxygen breathing tcpO₂ values at 1.0 ATA likewise provide no useful prediction
can indicate need for additional arterial testing

In-chamber tcpO₂ values offer some guidance; lack statistical precision
tcpO₂ > 200 mmHg most associated with healing response



PeriMed PeriFlux 6000

Four-part transcutaneous oximetry screening questionnaire

Is wound healing complicated by local hypoxia?
- are such wounds LIKELY to benefit?

Is any such hypoxia reversible?
- are DFU patients CAPABLE of benefiting?

Is there early evidence of response?
- ARE these wounds appearing to benefit?

Has a therapeutic endpoint been reached?
- have these wounds SUFFICIENTLY benefited?

Is wound healing complicated by local hypoxia?

Normal lower extremity/foot tcpO₂ defined as > 50 mmHg

Mohrén A, et al. J Vasc Med Biol 2005;17:255-259
Choi S, et al. Angiology 2002;53:833-839
Reimer CA, et al. Am J Surg 2005;190:1837-1843
Dowd GS, et al. J Bone Joint Surg 2003;85B:79-83
Dowd GS, et al. Clin Phys Physiol Meas 2006;31:65-68
Collman CL, et al. Clin Phys Physiol Meas 2006;31:259-263
Dobryzcki J, et al. Undersea Hyperbaric Med 2002;34:239-246
Tombora AA, Mianse TA. Wound Surg 2004;28:294-300

Support of tissue viability & wound healing defined as tcpO₂ ≥ 40 mmHg

Dowd GS, et al. J Bone Joint Surg 2003;85B:79-83
Smart DR, et al. Diving Hyperbaric Med 2000;30:171-180
Ranggerstorff C, et al. J Wound Care 2002;13(3):202-206
Giblin M, et al. Diabetes Care 2002;25(12):2177-2182

Impaired wound healing threshold defined as tcpO₂ < 40 mmHg

Hunt TK, et al. Wound Surg 2003;27:33-37
Pothier TG, et al. J Surg Res 2005;98(2):365-369
Baker M, et al. Diabetes Care 1992;15(2):147-151
Graham PG, et al. Am J Surg 2002;184(2):202-206
Smart DR, et al. Diving Hyperbaric Med 2000;30:171-180
Trankle TP, et al. Diving Hyperbaric Med 2002;32(2):182-187

Critical limb ischemia defined as tcpO₂ ≤ 30 mmHg

Choi S, et al. J Vasc Med Biol 2005;17:255-259
Bakker S, et al. J Vasc Med Biol 2005;17:255-259
Pothier TG, et al. J Vasc Med Biol 2005;17:255-259
Burt TL, et al. Am J Vasc Med Biol 2006;18:224-227
Berkman T, et al. Wound Care 2002;13(3):202-206
Alpaytan V, et al. European Heart J 2008;29:763-822

Is any such hypoxia reversible?

Normobaric 100% oxygen challenge tcpO₂ ≥ 100 mmHg per NRB mask @ 14-16 lpm

Strauss MB, et al. Foot Ankle Int. 2002;23(10):933-937
 Fikri CE, et al. Wound Repair Regen. 2002;10:188-207
 Middelkoop J. Wound Repair Regen. 2003;11:458-464
 Fikri CE, et al. Undersea Hyperbaric Med. 2009;36(1):43-53
 Misson H, et al. Undersea Hyperbaric Med. 2010;43(5):441-448

- > 300 mmHg... normal distal arterial perfusion
- 200-300 mmHg... minimal occlusive disease
- 100-199 mmHg... moderate occlusive disease
- 51-99 mmHg... significant occlusive disease **
- < 50 mmHg... highest grade occlusive disease **

** further arterial work-up indicated

Is there early evidence of response to HBO?

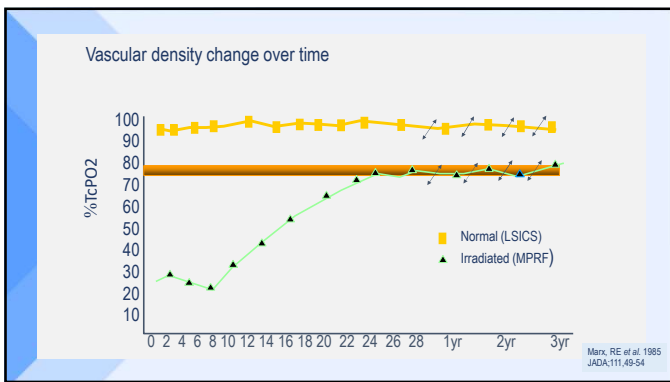
Repeat normobaric air breathing tcpO₂ test after 15 treatments

"A lack of improvement in tcpO₂ measurements should discourage further HBO"
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Indications 14th Edition 2019

"One should see (tcpO₂) changes by 10-15 HBO treatments to determine response"
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Indications 15th Edition 2023

"Multiple HBO exposures increased wound response/tcpO₂ values"
Sheffield PJ. Hyperbaric Oxygen Review 1985;6:18-46

In responders, five days weekly HBO with weekly f/u tcpO₂ testing



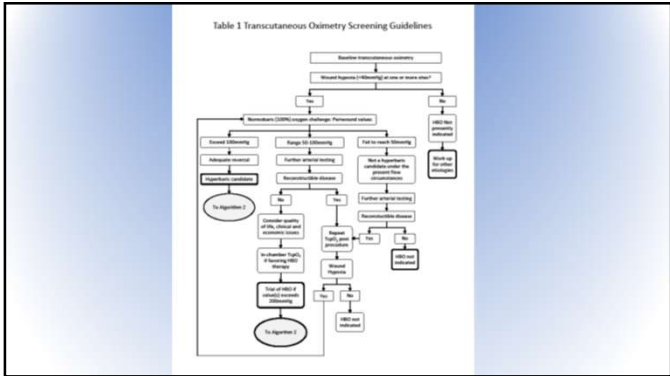
Has therapeutic endpoint been reached?

Support of tissue viability & wound healing defined as tcpO₂ ≥ 40 mmHg

David GSE, et al. J Bone Joint Surg [Br]. 1982;79-B
 Sherriff CR, et al. Orthop Sports Med Rehabil. 2006;8(2):22-26
 Ramgopalratnam C, et al. J Wound Care. 2013;24(3):202-206
 Givoni S, et al. Diabetes Care. 2010;33(12):2177-2182

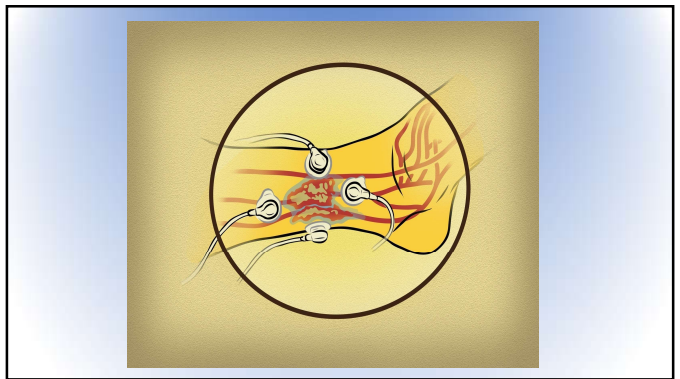
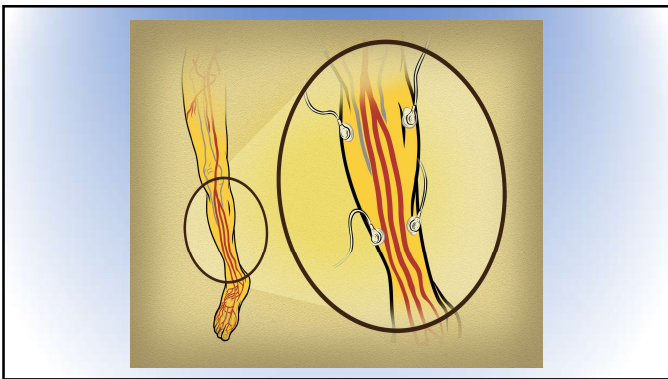
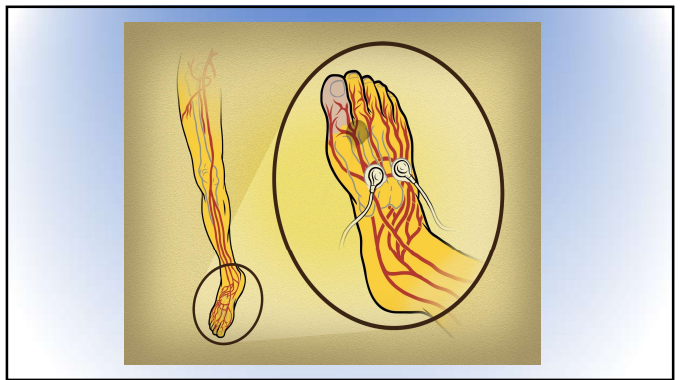
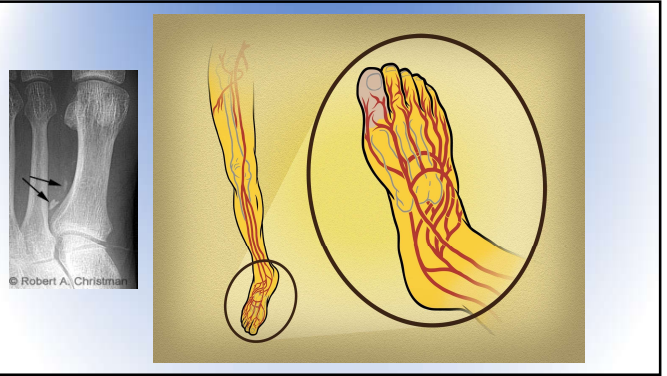
Four-step tcpO₂ screening

- Is wound healing complicated by local hypoxia?
 < 40 mmHg
- Is any such hypoxia reversible?
 ≥ 100 mmHg
- Is there early evidence of response to HBO?
 after 15 treatments
- Has a therapeutic endpoint been reached?
 peri wound value(s) ≥ 40 mmHg



Site selection; anatomic factors

- Clear understanding of question in need of address
- Appreciate arterial anatomy associated with question
- Principal testing site(s) consistent with that determinant
- Any necessary secondary testing site(s)





Journal of Tissue Viability

Analysis of transcutaneous oxygen pressure values stratified for foot angiotensins in prediabetic foot ulcer healing

660-303

Maria Ligia Moral, María García-Morales, Raquel J. Molero-Rivera, Yolanda García-Alvarez, María Fernández-Rodríguez, María José García-Martel

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Objective: To analyze the effect of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs) on the healing of foot ulcers in prediabetic patients. Methods: A retrospective study was conducted in a tertiary care hospital. Results: The study included 100 patients with foot ulcers. The mean time to heal was significantly shorter in the ACEI group compared to the control group. Conclusion: The use of ACEIs may improve the healing of foot ulcers in prediabetic patients.

KEYWORDS

Foot ulcers, Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, Transcutaneous oxygen pressure, Prediabetes

Legend for Figure 1

1. Medial malleolus
2. Medial malleolus branch of posterior tibial artery
3. Medial malleolus branch of posterior tibial artery
4. Lateral malleolus branch of posterior tibial artery
5. Lateral malleolus branch of posterior tibial artery
6. Lateral malleolus branch of posterior tibial artery
7. Lateral malleolus branch of posterior tibial artery
8. Lateral malleolus branch of posterior tibial artery

"This study suggests that angiotensin guided tcPO2 contributes to a prognosis of successful foot ulcer healing"

Lopez-Moral M, et al. J Tissue Viability 2023;32:480-486

'Real Angiosome' Assessment from Peripheral Tissue Perfusion Using Tissue Oxygen Saturation Foot-mapping in Patients with Critical Limb Ischemia

Y. Kagaya, A. Ohno, H. Kaga, K. Ito, K. Takahashi, K. Aoki

WHAT THIS PAPER ADDS

This study demonstrates the clinical utility of the 'real angiosome' method for the assessment of peripheral tissue perfusion in patients with critical limb ischemia. The 'real angiosome' method is a non-invasive, reproducible, and easy-to-use method for the assessment of peripheral tissue perfusion. It is based on the measurement of tissue oxygen saturation (tO2) using a tissue oxygen saturation foot-mapping device. The 'real angiosome' method is a non-invasive, reproducible, and easy-to-use method for the assessment of peripheral tissue perfusion. It is based on the measurement of tissue oxygen saturation (tO2) using a tissue oxygen saturation foot-mapping device.

KEYWORDS

Critical limb ischemia, Tissue oxygen saturation, Foot-mapping, Angiosome

(A) Foot-mapping device

(B) Foot-mapping device

(C) Foot-mapping device

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(E) Foot-mapping device

(F) Foot-mapping device

(G) Foot-mapping device

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(V) Foot-mapping device

(W) Foot-mapping device

(X) Foot-mapping device

(Y) Foot-mapping device

(Z) Foot-mapping device

Kagaya Y, et al. European J Vasc Endo Surgery 2014;47(3)

When to delay testing

Immediately post-hemodialysis

Nutritive skin perfusion impaired during dialysis, sufficient in some cases to cause chest/cardiac & leg pain

~ significant tcPO2 decreases in pts. with & without PVD

Markedly edematous tissue

Diffusion barrier between functioning capillaries & skin

Caffeine ingestion

Restrict caffeine-containing substances prior to testing

Nicotine

Avoid any use for at least two hours prior to testing

Supplemental oxygen administration

Absence of conversion factors

Weiss T, et al. 1998
Neph Dial Trans; 13

Stephens M, et al. 1999
UHMS 26(2):93-97

Dooley J, et al. 1996
UHMS 23(3):167-174

Jensen JA, et al. 1994
Arch Surg 126:1131-1134

The screenshot displays the website for the Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society. At the top left is the society's logo, which includes a lightbulb icon and the text "UNDERSEA & HYPERBARIC MEDICAL SOCIETY". To the right of the logo are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Below the logo is a dark blue navigation bar with white text for "Home", "Facility Accreditation", "Membership", "Education", "Publications", "Resources", and "Members". The main content area features a white background with a dark blue header for the article: "Transcutaneous Oximetry Optimizes Clinical Management and Cost-Effectiveness of Diabetic Foot Ulcers Treated with Hyperbaric Oxygen: A Review of Point of Care Vascular Screening Options". Below the title, the author's name "Richard E. Clark, MD, PhD" is listed, followed by his affiliation "National Biomedical Service, Columbia, South Carolina, USA" and his contact information "CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: rclark@underseahms.com". A "KEYWORDS" section follows. The main body of the article begins with the text: "Hyperbaric oxygen therapy has been established as a standard of care for diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs) that do not heal with conventional medical treatments. This is supported by some high-quality evidence, sufficient to inform clinical practice. The purpose of this review is to provide a comprehensive overview of the current evidence base for the use of hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) in the treatment of DFUs. The review will focus on the clinical outcomes of HBO treatment, including wound healing, infection control, and the need for amputation. The review will also discuss the cost-effectiveness of HBO treatment compared to other available treatments. The review will conclude with a summary of the findings and recommendations for the use of HBO in the treatment of DFUs." The article is accompanied by a small blue circular icon on the left and a PDF icon on the right.