

Referral for Urgent Hyperbaric Treatment for Idiopathic Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss

Background:

Idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss (ISSHL) is a rapid onset of hearing loss with profound effects on quality of life. Medical therapy is the mainstay of treatment, however studies have demonstrated that the addition of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) to medical therapy confers a better outcome in over 50% of patients when compared to medical therapy alone¹. As such, Hyperbaric oxygen treatment for ISSHL is fully OHIP covered provided that the patient is receiving concurrent treatment with corticosteroids and where HBOT is started within 30 days of diagnosis.

Treatment:

Our center's protocol for ISSHL is to proceed with daily treatments at 2.4ATA in a monoplace chamber, five days a week, for twenty treatments. Additional treatments may be warranted depending on progress.

Pathway:

Patient diagnosed with ISSHL by ENT:

1. Urgent referral as an **e-referral** or by **fax (905-273-9800)**. Both methods are available through our website: www.restorehyperbarics.ca. If further information is needed, please call and ask to speak to the hyperbaric physician on site at (905) 848 – 0202.
 - If patient's home address is far from our centre and travel is a concern, we will work with our collaborating HBOT centers in the GTHA to triage HBOT care to a more convenient location.
2. We will aim for **same day virtual consult**.
 - If same day assessment is not possible, we will triage to first thing next morning or Monday morning if on weekend
 - We will aim to start treatments 24-72 hours of consultation.

For Non-Urgent ENT Referrals (OHIP covered: complex wounds, compromised graft, and post-radiation injury) please send referral via e-referral or by fax (available on our website: www.restorehyperbarics.ca)