

Winter 2005

Lancaster Community
Hospital

healthNEWS



Contents

[Home](#)
[Letter From the CEO](#)
[LCH Honors Top Employees](#)
[Who's New?](#)
[Center for Wound Care Expands to Meet High Demand](#)
[People Who Care Make All the Difference](#)
[Want to Give Back? Consider Volunteer Work](#)
[Aim for Healthier Arteries as the New Year Unfolds](#)
[Meeting for Success](#)
[Bariatric Surgery Now Available at Lancaster Community Hospital](#)
[When the Unexpected Strikes, Expect Expert Care](#)
[Senior Advantage Activities, Health and Wellness Classes and Support Groups](#)
[Need a Doctor?](#)
[Past Issues](#)

www.
lancastercommunity
hospital
.net

Center for Wound Care Expands to Meet High Demand

There's new hope for patients in the Antelope Valley who have difficult wounds that don't respond to standard wound-care treatment. The Center for Wound Care at Lancaster Community Hospital (LCH) now offers a more sophisticated wound-care treatment called hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

"The need for expert wound care treatment was much, much greater than we anticipated," says Tom RoseHaley, Supervisor of the Center for Wound Care's new Hyperbaric Unit. "We've been filled to capacity since we opened last year and have healed many wounds. But we found that nearly one in five patients has a serious wound that requires even more intensive treatment."

Some of these patients are benefiting from the hyperbaric services now available at the Hyperbaric Unit. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy supersaturates the blood with oxygen and can help prevent some of the serious complications of nonhealing wounds, including infections, gangrene and amputation.

Patient comfort is a priority

The Hyperbaric Unit is equipped with two monoplace hyperbaric chambers that will enhance patient care and maximize their comfort. While some facilities use large chambers to treat several patients simultaneously, the new hyperbaric chambers at LCH are designed for individual treatments.

In addition, the chambers feature acrylic shells rather than steel enclosures so patients don't feel as confined, and televisions have been mounted in the ceiling above the chambers to allow patients to watch their favorite programs during their treatments.



Mike Comer (left) and Tom RoseHaley, Supervisor of the Center's Hyperbaric Unit, with one of LCH's new hyperbaric chambers

"Patient comfort is important because people with chronic wounds typically undergo two-hour treatments five to six days a week for several months," says RoseHaley.

The healing power of oxygen

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy was first developed to treat decompression sickness and other underwater diving mishaps. Now, it is recognized as an effective treatment for some patients who have hard-to-heal wounds caused by diabetes or other conditions that affect the circulation.

Patients who undergo hyperbaric oxygen therapy sit or lie in pressurized chambers and breathe 100 percent oxygen, which is five times the amount we normally breathe. This treatment helps increase the level of oxygen in the blood, which in turn, can stimulate the growth of new blood vessels, improve circulation, reduce the risk of infection and promote healing.

"Hyperbaric oxygen therapy allows us to take wound-care treatment to a new level in certain patients," says RoseHaley. "We now offer a complete range of wound-care therapies that can help patients heal and may save their limbs and feet."

The Center for Wound Care and the Hyperbaric Unit are located in the Medical Office Building across from Lancaster Community Hospital. For more information about the services at both facilities, call **661-949-6946**.



Lancaster Community Hospital,
43830 N. 10th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534
Phone: 661-948-4781