

**In Collaboration with the Oman Disabled Divers Association
The Otolaryngology Society of Oman Medical Association
Conducts Workshop on Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy**

By: Waleed Mahmood

Photography: Said Al-Bahri

The Otolaryngology Society recently held a workshop on hyperbaric oxygen therapy HBOT in collaboration with the Oman Disabled Divers Association ODDA (under formation). The attendees comprised a host of otolaryngologists from Al-Nahdha Hospital, Sultan Qaboos University Hospital and Armed Forces Hospital as well as physicians from hospitals across Oman and a group of Omani divers.

Patron-in-chief of ODDA, Sayyid Nasr bin Badr bin Hamoud Al-Busaidi, initiated the workshop by welcoming the attendees and wishing them the best of luck. He pointed out that the workshop comes as an initiative from ODDA to raise medical awareness among divers and educate them on the importance of HBOT and transfer expertise in the field of hyperbaric medicine which concerns a large section of the society, especially divers, since HBOT has proven ability to treat and control the spread of numerous diseases, such as diabetes, and to give information on diving accidents that rarely happen to well-trained divers and mostly to those practicing diving without certification. The workshop also highlights the social responsibility of ODDA which we aspire to officially announce in the near future.

During the workshop, physicians delivered lectures and presentations on how oxygen can be used to help divers fight diseases, such as infections, by making it easier for antibiotics to reach the infected area and speed up the healing process.

HBOT also helps in the treatment of infections in diabetics by stopping gangrene from spreading and in healing surgery wounds especially in cancer patients who undergo radiation therapy. Understanding the importance of HBOT, the Sultanate made headway in the application of this type of treatment. The hyperbaric chamber is now available at the Naval Base at Wudam Al-Sahel and soon another one will be available at the Ministry of Health. This workshop will shed light on HBOT, how it is used and the conditions it treats.