

Effectiveness of hyperbaric oxygen and ozone applications in tissue healing in generated soft tissue trauma model in rats: an experimental study

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Soft tissue trauma is a type of acute traumatic ischemia. We investigated in this study whether the edema, inflammation and ischemia caused by the trauma could be affected positively by hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) and ozone therapy.

METHODS: Soft tissue trauma was generated in a total of 63 adult male Sprague-Dawley rats. Subsequently, rats were divided into three groups. The first group was treated with ozone, the second group with HBO, and the third group served as controls. Tissue and blood samples were taken at the end of the procedures. Tissue lipid peroxidation (LPO), superoxide dismutase (SOD), glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px), inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS), heme oxygenase (HO)-I, and hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF)-I levels were detected. Hematoxylin-eosin staining was used to determine the inflammation and edema histopathologically.

RESULTS: We also detected HIF-I activity, which decreases when the oxygen concentration increases, HO-I activity, which has anti-inflammatory effects, and iNOS activity, which releases in any type of acute case. We determined a statistically significant reduction in iNOS and LPO levels in both the HBO and Ozone groups. A significant decrease in inflammation was detected in both the Ozone and HBO groups compared with the Control group, and a significant decrease in edema was detected in all three groups.

CONCLUSION: We think that HBO and Ozone therapy have beneficial effects on biochemical and histopathological findings. Related clinical trials will be helpful in clarifying the effects.

Key words: Experimental; hyperbaric oxygen; ozone; soft tissue trauma.

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INTRODUCTION

Soft tissue trauma (STT) is commonly encountered in emergency departments. STT defines lesions of the musculoskeletal system tissues other than bone. Lesions of these tissues represent the most commonly seen group of all sports injuries.^[1]

Crush injuries or acute soft tissue injuries are an important health problem that can threaten the viability and function of

the tissues.^[2] Crush injuries may also be defined as a kind of acute traumatic ischemia. The cause of ischemia is cutting or crushing of large vessels and stasis or reduction in microcirculation secondary to occlusion. As a result, adequate tissue perfusion to provide the metabolic needs of the tissue is not achieved. In the early phase of crush, tissue oxygen requirement is increased 20-fold or more to provide good wound healing and control of infection. These metabolic needs cannot be provided without increased blood flow. When ischemia increases, the tissues cannot maintain the intracellular fluid content, because oxygen is required for active transport. Therefore, this process is accompanied by edema and inflammation.^[3]

Hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapy is based on ventilating the patient with 100% oxygen over atmospheric pressure in a pressure-resistant room. HBO improves perfusion by increasing the level of free oxygen in the blood. Cell viability, energy production, and the production of collagen, which is important in wound healing, is thereby maintained.^[4]

Ozone is a molecule consisting of three oxygen atoms. Ozone therapy is administration of a certain amount of oxygen/ozone mixture into body cavities or the circulatory system. Ozone reduces the amounts of antioxidants in plasma by activating them. The hydrogen peroxide that occurs is responsible for the biological and therapeutic effects of ozone. The decrease in the antioxidant level and stimulating effect of hydrogen peroxide generate a shock effect on the body in the ozone contacting process. As a result of this effect, a variety of defense systems, including primarily antioxidant enzyme expression, are stimulated. Thus, resistance to the oxidative processes increases. One of the first effects of hydrogen peroxide, which is thought to be one of the molecules responsible for the therapeutic activity of ozone, is slipping the hemoglobin-oxygen dissociation curve to the right and releasing oxygen to the tissues easily by increasing 2,3-diphosphoglycerate levels in red blood.^[5] The situation emerging during ozone therapy may be interpreted as increased tissue partial oxygen pressure is provided biochemically with ozone.

Patients with STT admit with complaints such as swelling, limitation of movement and pain. There are various approaches to the treatment of these patients, who are diagnosed after excluding bone and other pathologies based on physical examination and imaging. Support of the foot and ankle with materials such as plaster, splints and bandages, elevation, cold application, topical non-steroidal inflammation-suppressing drugs, vascular dilators, blood clot-dissolving drugs, and antioxidants are the commonly used treatment methods for soft tissue edema, ischemia and inflammation. Demonstration of the effectiveness of HBO and ozone therapy in STT may provide new perspectives on this issue. Thus, the effectiveness of HBO and ozone in STT was investigated in this study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was approved by the decision of GATA Command Ethics Committee for Animal Experiments on 3 March 2011 (decision 2011/11). Animals were supplied by GATA - Research and Development Center - Department of Experimental Animals, and were kept in the same laboratory conditions during the study. The animals were fed with commercial rat chow and tap water.

In this study, a total of 63 adult male Sprague-Dawley rats weighing 230 ± 20 g were used. The rats were divided into a total of three groups of 21 rats each using 'simple random sampling' method. Initially, experimental STT was performed in each group. The ozone procedure was performed in one group (Ozone+STT group), the HBO procedure in another (HBO+STT group), and the third group served as controls (Table 1). On the 1st, 3rd and 7th days, the samples were taken from seven rats randomly in each group, and results were compared at the different time points.

Experimental Acute Soft Tissue Injury Model

The animals were anesthetized with a combination of intraperitoneal (IP) ketamine (20-40 mg/kg) and xylazine (4-8 mg/kg). The subjects were fixed in the prone position, the rear leg was shaved, and the trauma application location was marked with a tissue pen (Fig. 1a). The STT was created using a 0.5 kg weight released for free fall movement from a 45 cm height, in a 3 cm diameter plastic tube, at a 90° angle, on to the left rear leg of the rat (Fig. 1b).

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

For the application of HBO, a specially designed and manufactured cylindrical hyperbaric chamber, with a diameter of 40 cm and length 60 cm, maintained at T.S.K. 800 Main Warehouse and Factory Command (Etimesgut, Ankara), was used. The chamber had a chromium, nickel and steel mixture body and had been tested for resistance to 10 ATA pressure. 1.5-2 L/min flow rate of oxygen input into the chamber was provided using tubes containing pure oxygen under high pressure and obtained from GATA - Biomedical Clinical Engineering Center - Medical Gases Department. After the animals in the HBO+STT group were placed in the chamber, HBO therapy was applied for 2 hours/day under 2.5 ATA application pres-

Table 1. Working groups

Groups	Days		
	1st day	3rd day	7th day
Ozone + STT	7 rats	7 rats	7 rats
HBO + STT	7 rats	7 rats	7 rats
STT (Control)	7 rats	7 rats	7 rats

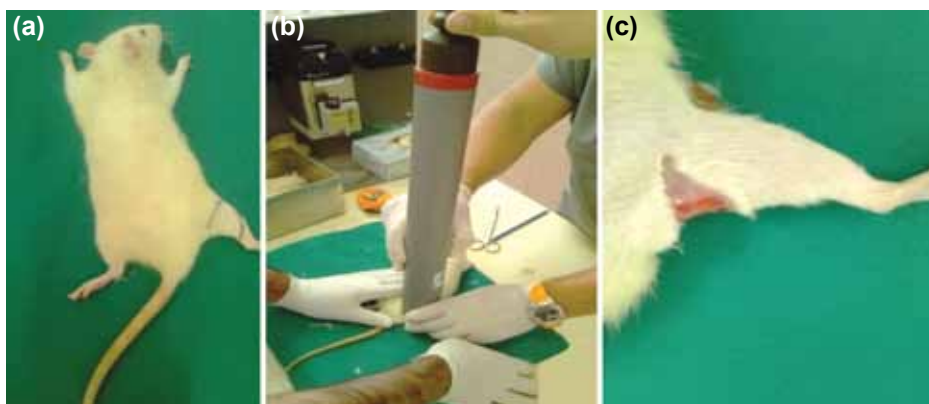


Figure 1. (a, b) Procedures for soft tissue trauma and (c) tissue sampling.

sure and with fixed oxygen amount. At the end of the session, the chamber was returned to environment pressure at a slower rate. This procedure was repeated on days 3 and 7. After HBO therapy, a subgroup of animals (on days 1, 3 and 7) were sacrificed.

Ozone Application

An ozone/oxygen mixture of 0.7 g/kg was administered IP to the rats in the ozone group on days 1, 3 and 7. Ozone is created by an ozone generator (OZONOSAN Photonic 1014, Hans GmbH Nordring & Iffezheim, Germany), in which a spectrometer was placed that allowed the operator to control real-time gas flow rate and ozone concentration. The ozone flow rate was kept constant at 60 mg/ml concentration, 97% oxygen + 3% ozone gas mixture at 3 L/min.

Sampling

After creating an experimental model of STT, tissue and

blood samples were taken from each subgroup of 7 rats on the 1st, 3rd and 7th days. After anesthesia, required blood samples were taken from the inferior vena cava. Traumatic tissue samples were excised and placed in 10% formalin for histopathological analysis. A portion of traumatic tissue was frozen with liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C deep freeze for subsequent biochemical assessments (Fig. 1c).

Biochemical Analysis

Routine biochemistry levels to follow the general condition of the animal, tissue lipid peroxidation (LPO) levels to detect the level of tissue oxidative stress, and tissue superoxide dismutase (SOD) and glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px) enzyme levels to detect antioxidant system functioning were measured. In addition, hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF-1) and heme oxygenase (HO-1) levels were measured to determine the recovery of hypoxic tissues, and inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) levels were measured to determine wound healing.

Table 2. Comparison of tissue enzyme levels of all groups according to time points

	LPO nmol/g Mean.±SD	SOD U/mg Mean.±SD	HO-1α nmol/g Mean.±SD	HIF-1 pg/mg Mean.±SD	iNOS IU/mg Mean.±SD	GSH-PX nmol/min/mg Mean.±SD
1st day	69.54±14.5	7.55±3.2	1169.8±251.2	73.34±22.15	38.70±16.6	10.73±2.31
3rd day	53.60±12.6	6.15±2.48	1091.71±243.8	37.92±15.53	31.73±9.15	9.20±3.05
7th day	43.98±20.54	5.37±2.29	838.85±348.44	22.74±8.87	24.42±6.35	9.80±3.50
P	0.028	0.337	0.104	<0.001	0.097	0.639
1st day	52.97±16.13	23.44±9.77	1191±322.90	50.35±17.35	70.39±23.31	27.50±9.94
3rd day	15.29±5.11	18.65±7.40	1105.71±262.7	40.61±13.92	46.73±17.27	6.86±3.05
7th day	17.46±8.92	11.7±1.91	866.71±290.01	28.52±10.51	27.4±9.91	7.11±2.87
P	<0.001	0.023	0.128	0.033	0.001	<0.001
1st day	62.54±14.74	18.36±6.53	1067.57±291.92	56.48±32.01	79.25±23.96	12.25±3.19
3rd day	33.61±9.84	10.92±4.36	715.50±178.61	35.15±12.09	43.08±23.21	9.49±2.48
7th day	24.29±7.57	4.05±1.87	969.33±356.1	31.58±10.14	16.38±3.9	4.92±2.25
P	<0.001	<0.001	0.109	0.105	<0.001	0.001

Histopathological Evaluation

After trauma and administration of HBO and ozone treatment for 7 days, edema, inflammation and necrosis in tissue were evaluated and scored by an experienced pathologist. Injured skeletal muscle and adipose tissue were extracted from the rear thigh. Tissues were fixed in 4% buffered formaldehyde. Tissues were sampled completely, paraffin blocks were obtained, and 5 micron thickness slides were prepared. Slides were stained with hematoxylin-eosin. Evaluation and scoring were performed by light microscope (Nikon, E600, Tokyo, Japan).

Histological scoring was as follows:

1. Edema: absent: 0, mild: 1+, moderate: 2+, intense: 3+
2. Inflammation: absent: 0, mild: 1+, moderate: 2+, intense: 3+
3. Necrosis: absent: 0, mild: 1+ (a few muscle fibers), moderate: 2+ (between score 1 and 3), intense: 3+ (many muscle fibers)

As shown in Table 4, the minimum score was 0 and maximum score was 9.

Statistical Analysis

The numbers (%) for defining the discrete data points and median (25%-75%) values for defining continuous data were used. The Kruskal-Wallis test was used in all group comparisons, and then Mann-Whitney U-test was used to compare the groups in pairs that showed significant results. Chi-square or Fisher's exact test was used in comparison of the discrete data between the two groups. The simultaneous changes in continuous variables were assessed by Spearman relevant coefficient. $p < 0.05$ values were considered significant.

RESULTS

Biochemical Results

In tissue samples analysis, a significant decrease in LPO levels was observed in the HBO and Ozone groups compared to

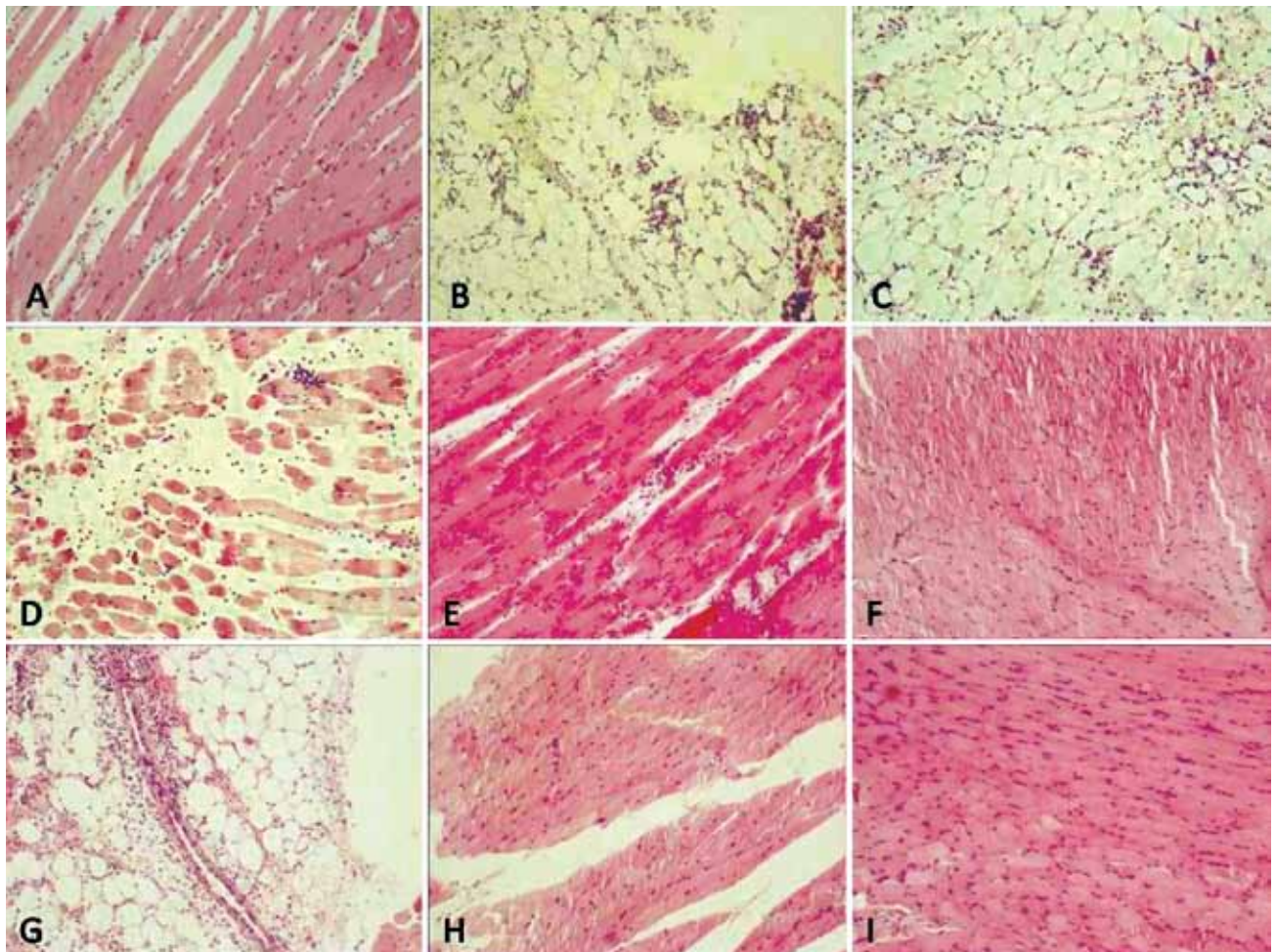


Figure 2. Intense edema and inflammation between muscle fibers and a few necrotic muscle fibers (Control group, 1st day) (a). Moderate edema and inflammation in adipose tissue (HBO group, 1st day) (b). Moderate edema and inflammation in adipose tissue (Ozone group, 1st day) (c). Intense edema and inflammation (Control, 3rd day) (d). Moderate edema and inflammation in muscle tissue (HBO, 3rd day) (e). Mild inflammation in muscle tissue (f). Mild inflammation in muscle tissue (Ozone 3rd day) (g). Moderate edema and inflammation in adipose tissue (Control, 7th day) (h). Mild inflammation and edema (HBO, 7th day) (I).

Table 3. Comparison of serum enzyme level of Control, HBO and Ozone groups according to the 1st and 7th days

	LPO nmol/L Mean.±SD	SOD U/ml Mean.±SD	HO-1α ng/ml Mean.±SD	HIF-1 pg/ml Mean.±SD	iNOS IU/ml Mean.±SD	GSH-Px nmol/min/ml Mean.±SD
Control						
1st day	4.99±1.03	0.96±0.40	280.10±69.81	15.73±2.90	3.80±0.91	1.67±0.34
7th day	2.85±0.91	0.24±0.16	201.33±20.64	13.15±3.64	3.32±0.94	0.80±0.28
P	0.001	0.001	0.014	0.168	0.354	<0.001
HBO						
1st day	3.07±0.72	1.90±0.38	410.94±97.27	25.14±9.19	4.31±0.62	1.56±0.49
7th day	1.37±0.40	2.66±1.06	268.86±80.24	22.28±3.25	4.02±0.92	1.81±0.28
P	<0.001	0.102	0.011	0.453	0.499	0.270
OZONE						
1st day	1.66±0.47	1.74±0.63	439.15±58.12	34.65±7.45	2.46±0.68	1.52±0.30
7th day	1.35±0.25	2.70±0.58	143.45±41.94	7.89±3.67	4.79±1.57	1.20±0.71
P	0.175	0.017	<0.001	<0.001	0.004	0.307

the Control group on days 1, 3 and 7. There was a significant decrease in SOD, GSH-Px and iNOS levels only in the treatment groups (Table 2). The values of all parameters in serum samples were measured as significantly lower on the 7th day compared to the 1st day except in SOD/GSH-Px in the HBO group and in SOD/iNOS in the Ozone group (Table 3). The values of LPO, HIF-1, HO-1α, GSH-Px, SOD, and iNOS from

tissue samples are presented in Table 2, and the values of LPO, HIF-1, HO-1α, GSH-Px, SOD, and iNOS from serum samples are presented in Table 3.

With regard to binary comparisons of the parameters between the Control and HBO groups for tissue on the 1st day, SOD, iNOS and GSH-Px levels of the HBO group were sig-

Table 4. Comparison of edema, necrosis and inflammation in the Control, HBO and Ozone groups according to days 1, 3 and 7

	Control				HBO				Ozone			
	Days			p	Days			p	Days			p
	1st	3rd	7th		1st	3rd	7th		1st	3rd	7th	
Edema												
0	0	0	0	<0.001	0	0	0	<0.001	0	7	7	<0.001
(+)	0	0	0		0	0	7		0	0	0	
(++)	0	0	7		7	7	0		7	0	0	
(+++)	7	7	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
Necrosis												
0	0	7	7	<0.001	7	7	7	(*)	7	7	7	(*)
(+)	7	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
(++)	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
(+++)	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
Inflammation												
0	0	0	0	(*)	0	0	0	<0.001	0	0	7	<0.001
(+)	0	0	0		0	0	7		0	7	0	
(++)	7	7	7		0	7	0		7	0	0	
(+++)	0	0	0		7	0	0		0	0	0	

(*) Chi-square test could not be applied.

nificantly higher than in the Control group ($p < 0.001$, $p = 0.001$ and $p < 0.001$, respectively). LPO and HIF-1 levels of the HBO group were significantly lower than in the Control group ($p = 0.023$ and $p = 0.017$, respectively). On the 3rd and 7th days, LPO levels in the HBO group were significantly lower than in the Control group ($p < 0.001$ and $p < 0.001$, respectively), and SOD levels of the HBO group were significantly higher than in the Control group ($p < 0.001$ and $p = 0.027$, respectively). Differences in HIF-1, iNOS and GSH-Px levels between the HBO and Control groups were not statistically significant on the 3rd and 7th days. There was no statistically significant difference in HO-1 α levels on the 1st, 3rd and 7th days between the Control and HBO groups.

With regard to binary comparisons of the parameters between the Control and Ozone groups for tissue, SOD and iNOS levels were significantly higher in the Ozone group than Control group on the 1st day ($p < 0.001$ and $p < 0.001$, respectively). LPO and HO-1 α levels were significantly lower in the Ozone group than Control group on the 3rd day ($p = 0.009$ and $p = 0.023$, respectively). LPO and GSH-Px levels were significantly lower in the Ozone group than Control group on the 7th day ($p = 0.010$ and $p = 0.048$, respectively). Differences in other parameters were not statistically significant between the Ozone and Control groups.

Histopathological Findings

In all groups, the total score was less on the 3rd and 7th days than on the 1st day. The 1st day score of the Ozone group was lower than the 1st day score of the Control and HBO groups. 7th day score of the Ozone group was lower than of the HBO group.

In the Control group, edema was intense on the 1st and 3rd days, but was moderate on the 7th day. The difference between 1st or 3rd vs. 7th day was statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). Inflammation was moderate on all days; therefore, chi-square test could not be applied. While necrosis was mild on the 1st day, it was absent on the 3rd and 7th days in the Control group, and this was also statistically significant ($p < 0.001$) (Table 4).

In the HBO group, edema was moderate on the 1st and 3rd days, but on the 7th day it was mild. Inflammation was intense, moderate and mild on the 1st, 3rd and 7th days, respectively. This decrease in the HBO group was statistically significant. However, necrosis was not seen in the HBO group on any day (Table 4).

In the Ozone group, edema was moderate on the 1st day, but absent on the 3rd and 7th days. Inflammation was moderate, mild and absent on the 1st, 3rd and 7th days, respectively. This decrease in the Ozone group was statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). Necrosis was not seen in this group (Table 4).

Examples of histopathological images of the Control and treatment groups are presented in Figure 2.

DISCUSSION

In the review of the literature about models of STT, there are methods created chemically (such as zymosan), by ultraviolet radiation and mechanically (or physically). The components of the immune system are also activated when trying to create an inflammation model using antigenic substances such as Freud adjuvant, carrageenan or zymosan. However, soft tissue injuries that occur in reality are usually sterile. There are also sterilized injury models created by ultraviolet exposure.^[6] This injury model was developed on the model of traumatic brain injury studies in rats.^[7,8]

There are various clinical studies in the literature about HBO effectiveness in STT treatment. The common view in these studies is that HBO is not effective in STT treatment. However, a review of the Cochrane Collaboration, published in 2009, expressed the limitations of the studies and the necessity for further, more comprehensive studies. Although the efficacy of ozone in the inflammatory process is known, we could not find any study in the literature on ozone use in STT except in lumbar disc herniation and orthopedic disorders including arthritis and rheumatic diseases.^[9-19] In their study, Brooke et al. performed HBO therapy in 21 collegiate volunteers who had exercise-induced muscle injury, and they concluded that HBO therapy is not an effective treatment in muscle injury. It was thought that this result could be attributed to the fact that it is not possible to standardize STT severity. One of the other factors that possibly contributes to unsuccessful HBO treatment is that structures such as muscle ligaments, tendons and fascia are also affected, and these structures have a much lower response to oxygen.^[14]

Soolsma^[20] could find no evidence of a benefit of HBO treatment on delayed muscle pain treatment process in his grade 2 medial collateral ligament injuries study in 1996. Four studies published results showing that HBO had decreased pain significantly in patients at the end of 48 hours, but there was no evidence of improvement in muscle tension or decrease in edema. There was no difference between groups with regard to signs of edema and muscle tension. There was also no significant difference in clinical outcomes after 24 hours delayed HBO treatment in the study of Harrison and Staples.^[11,14,21] The apparent incompatibility of these results with ours is thought to be due to use of ligament injury as a model and the limited response of ligaments to oxygen.

Ozone therapy has shown positive effects on wound healing, age-related macular degeneration, and ischemic and infectious diseases in case-analysis studies. In addition, it has been effectively applied in a variety of infectious diseases ranging from simple dental or mouth infections to hepatitis.^[22,23]

The therapeutic effect of ozone, especially in pathophysiological situations due to an intense inflammatory process in which the immune system is forefront, is surprising. Martinez-Sanchez and colleagues^[16] applied HBO treatment to patients with diabetic foot, and they reported that wound healing was accelerated, length of hospital stay was shortened, control of blood sugar levels was better, and antioxidant enzyme levels were increased in the HBO treatment group when compared to the antibiotic treatment group. It has also been reported that injection of an oxygen/ozone mixture into the disc is useful in lumbar disc herniations.^[17] The studies have shown that ozone applications increase the secretion of platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), transforming growth factor (TGF)- β 1, and cytokines such as interleukin (IL)-8 from platelets. Kim et al.^[18] also showed the same results in their wound healing study. In that study, topically applied ozone increased PDGF, TGF and VEGF expression and accelerated wound healing in scar tissue. Koca et al.^[19] recently showed that inflammatory cytokines and oxidative stress decreased in both the ozone and HBO groups.

There are important studies in the literature about how the HBO application affects the antioxidant enzymes in various tissues in the organism. In one of them, Harabin and colleagues^[24] reported an increase in SOD activity in the lung and decrease in GSH-Px activity in brain and lung tissues in HBO-applied rats and guinea pigs. There are other researches as well that report that HBO may lead to an increase in SOD activity. These results seem compatible with our study results.

Although an increase in antioxidant enzyme activities indicates an increase in free radical production, this increase has importance especially when these enzymes exceed the capacity. The lipid peroxidation, which is one of the most important harmful effects of free radicals, must be evaluated to assess the effect of increased free radical level. The best indicator of this is LPO. In our study, the decrease in LPO levels was statistically significant in the HBO group compared to the Control group on the 1st, 3rd and 7th days, and the decrease in LPO levels was insignificant on the 1st day and was statistically significant on the 3rd and 7th days. These values show that the decrease in LPO level was less in the Control group than in the Ozone and HBO groups. This situation may show that there is an intense oxidative stress that exceeds the capacity of antioxidant enzymes in the created trauma.

Organisms needing oxygen for life must have a physiological adaptation to hypoxia. In mammals, including humans, vasodilation, angiogenesis, increase in glucose transport, increase in glycolysis, and apoptosis are activated. In the treatment of tumors, antiangiogenesis reduces the tumor blood flow, causing the tumor cells to become resistant to chronic hypoxia. It has been found that the signaling pathway stimulated by hypoxia improves the acquired tolerance to chronic hypoxia. HIF-1 α controls this by influencing apoptosis and regulating

genes and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF).^[26,27] Reduction in oxygen in a region increases the production of the gene regulatory protein HIF-1. This protein increases VEGF production particularly affecting the VEGF gene promoter. The VEGF secreted by surrounding tissue increases vasculature by activating endothelial cells in this region. When the formation of new blood vessels occurs and the oxygen concentration increases, HIF-1 activity and VEGF production decrease.^[28] In our study, there was a statistically significant decrease in the Control and HBO groups at the different time points. In the Ozone group, it was statistically insignificant. Decrease in the level of HIF-1 between the Control and HBO groups was statistically significant on day 1 and was statistically insignificant on day 3 and day 7. Based on these findings, it is known that HBO therapy has a more active role than Ozone treatment in tissue oxygenation, especially in the early days of the trauma.

It has been reported that with application of ozone, the HO-1 enzyme is also stimulated. The reason for the increase in this enzyme may be due to red blood cell hemolysis or ROT. HO-1 is a microsomal enzyme involved in the demolition of heme ring, and the production is stimulated by an increase in oxidative stress, inflammatory cytokines and NO. This enzyme smashes the heme molecule in biliverdin and carbon monoxide (CO). Several studies performed in recent years showed that the HO-1 enzyme had antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antiapoptotic properties.^[29-31] However, in one study it was demonstrated that induction of hem oxygenase is one of the protective mechanisms against oxidative stress in the pathogenesis of pulmonary disease. HO-1, the inducible form of HO, catalyzes heme to bilirubin, and this causes free iron and CO production.^[32] In our study, change in HO-1 activity between groups was not significant according to time points. The protection of HO-1 levels is considered to be significant in our study, in which the enzyme levels were generally decreased.

iNOS that is released in any acute event (trauma, stress, acute inflammation, etc.) may have either a protective or detrimental effect on tissue. NO is important in wound healing. NO synthesis by macrophages continues for a long time in vitro. NO produced by structural NOS is necessary to maintain the normal physiological events. High NO concentrations produced by iNOS increase the damage.^[33] In short, the NO molecule may show either protective or damaging effects in acute inflammatory events. In burning wounds as well, the level of iNOS increases immediately after the trauma. Koca et al.^[19] created skeletal muscle ischemia-reperfusion injury in rats, and reported that HBO treatment decreased MDA and NOS levels, and significantly increased GSH-Px enzyme activity. These findings seem to be compatible with our study. On histopathologic examination of the tissues exposed to trauma, the inflammation was more significantly decreased in the treatment groups than the Control group. The histopathological findings support the biochemical findings.

In conclusion, as a result of the study findings and the literature review, we find that there are laboratory results showing that ozone and HBO reduce oxidative stress, improve tissue healing and increase tissue partial oxygen pressure. These results are supported by the significant reduction in inflammation and edema on the histopathological examination in the treatment groups.

In this study, the ozone and HBO treatments in STT were considered to be of benefit based on the biochemical and histopathological findings. However, we were unable to determine any clear result that revealed the superiority of either HBO or ozone. Further studies on this subject, which is a popular topic in the treatment of soft tissue injuries, will provide new insights.

Conflict of interest: None declared.

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DENEYSEL ÇALIŞMA - ÖZET

Şıçanlarda oluşturulan yumuşak doku travma modelinde, hiperbarik oksijen ve ozon uygulamalarının doku iyileşmesi üzerine etkinliği: Deneysel çalışma

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AMAÇ: Yumuşak doku travmaları bir çeşit akut travmatik iskemidir. Travmayla ortaya çıkan ödem, enflamasyon ve iskemiye, HBO ve ozonun olumlu etkileri olacağı düşünüldü.

GEREÇ VE YÖNTEM: Toplam 63 yetişkin erkek Sprague-Dawley türü şıçanın her birine başlangıçta yumuşak doku travması (YDT) uygulanmış sonrasında bir kısmına ozon, bir kısmına HBO tedavi prosedürü uygulandı. Prosedürler bitiminde doku ve kan örnekleri alınan hayvanlarda, doku oksidatif stres düzeyini tespit için doku LPO düzeyleri, antioksidan sistemin işlevini tespit için doku SOD ve GSH-Px enzim düzeyleri, histopatolojik olarak, enflamasyon ve ödemin tespitinde rutin hematoksilen-eozin boyaması kullanıldı.

BULGULAR: Oksijen konsantrasyonu arttığında azalan HIF1 aktivitesine, antiinflamatuvar etkilerinin olduğu gösterilen HO-1 aktivitesine, her türlü akut olayda salınan iNOS aktiviteleri de çalışmamızda tespit edildi. Sonuç olarak, HBO ve ozon gruplarında LPO, iNOS düzeylerinde istatistiksel olarak anlamlı azalma tespit ettik. Bu sonuçlarla uyumlu olarak histopatolojik incelemede de kontrol grubuna kıyasla HBO ve ozon gruplarında enflamasyonda anlamlı bir azalma ve her üç grupta ödemde anlamlı düşme mevcuttu.

TARTIŞMA: YDT'lerinde, HBO ve ozon tedavisinin çalışmamızdaki biyokimyasal ve histopatolojik bulgulara göre faydalı etkilerinin olduğu değerlendirilmektedir. Konuyla ilgili klinik çalışmaların yapılması etkilerinin daha iyi irdelenmesi adına faydalı olacağı söylenebilir.

Anahtar sözcükler: Deneysel; hiperbarik oksijen; ozon; yumuşak doku travması.

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