Acupuncture-HBO$_2$ combined therapy in a persistent left hemiface hyperalgesia: A case report.

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This case report describes successful treatment of refractory hyperalgesia by a combination of acupuncture and hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBO$_2$). A 41 year-old female patient showed the sudden appearance of intense and persistent left hemifacial hyperalgesia resistant to all therapies. This happened immediately after several dental surgery procedures. In the absence of absolute contraindications, and with the local approved indication for “severe inflammation of soft tissues”, the patient underwent 20 sessions of HBO$_2$ at 2.5 ATA (25’ O$_2$ + 5’ Air x 3 each). There was no clinical response, and the patient describes no change in pain or general conditions. The patient had already undergone some acupuncture treatments by this time, as well, but with no effect. With the patient’s consent, we decided to try a combined Acupuncture-HBO$_2$ therapy. After a seven day pause in HBO$_2$ treatment, the patient underwent a second series of 20 sessions of HBO$_2$, 1 session a day (Mon – Sat), and 8 acupuncture sessions while receiving HBO$_2$. We treated particular wrist point #2-4-5 (wrists/ankles micro-system), M-HN-18, ST-36, BL-67.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION:

After combined therapy, the patient reported only a mild persistent hyperesthesia in the zygomatic area. Additional drug treatments were abandoned. Ultrasonography documented total resolution of inflamed areas and pain assessment (McGill Pain Questionnaire – MMPI – BDS) was consistent with an almost totally resolved problem. In spite of the obvious limits of a single observation, we consider it possible that combined Acupuncture-HBO$_2$ therapy may be benefit some chronic inflammatory conditions.