



Effective Health Care

Oxygen Therapy

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

The nominator is interested in a systematic review examining the efficacy of oxygen therapy to cure common ailments. The scope of the nomination was too broad, and we were unable to focus the topic further for assessment and consideration by the program for a future systematic review. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

Topic Brief

Topic Name: Oxygen Therapy

Topic #: 0706

Nomination Date: 09/25/2016

Topic Brief Date: October 2016

Nominator: Individual

Summary of Nomination: The nominator is interested in an AHRQ evidence review to examine oxygen therapy as a viable low-cost treatment for conditions such as cancer. The nominator believes that various oxygen treatments such as hyperbaric chambers, direct oxygen injections, and high oxygen diet can cure a wide variety of ailments.

Proposed Key Questions

None provided.

Background and Clinical Context

As the name suggests, oxygen therapy is a treatment that provides an individual with extra oxygen. This is a common treatment in patients with conditions which prevent someone from getting enough oxygen such as COPD, cystic fibrosis, and pneumonia. This treatment is typically administered intra-nasally, through a mask, or in serious cases, via a breathing tube.¹ Hyperbaric oxygen therapy can be used in serious conditions where the body requires additional oxygen in the blood in order to fight bacteria and stimulate healing. Some conditions for which type of pressurized oxygen environment may be beneficial include burns, muscle or tissue death, or carbon monoxide poisoning.²

Selection Criteria Summary

Selection Criteria	Supporting Data
1. Appropriateness	
1a. Does the nomination represent a health care drug, intervention, device, technology, or health care system/setting available (or soon to be available) in the U.S.?	Yes, this nomination represents a healthcare intervention.
1b. Is the nomination a request for a systematic review?	This nomination does not explicitly state the desire for a systematic review.
1c. Is the focus on effectiveness or comparative effectiveness?	Yes, this nomination focuses on effectiveness.

1d. Is the nomination focus supported by a logic model or biologic plausibility? Is it consistent or coherent with what is known about the topic?	Yes, this nomination focuses on a biologic plausibility.
2. Importance	
2a. Represents a significant disease burden; large proportion of the population	This topic represents a significant problem.
2b. Is of high public interest; affects health care decision making, outcomes, or costs for a large proportion of the US population or for a vulnerable population	This topic could affect health care decision making.
2c. Represents important uncertainty for decision makers	No, this topic does not represent an important uncertainty for decision makers.
2d. Incorporates issues around both clinical benefits and potential clinical harms	This nomination does not address harms.
2e. Represents high costs due to common use, high unit costs, or high associated costs to consumers, to patients, to health care systems, or to payers	This nomination represents a high cost to healthcare systems.

References

1. Medline Plus. 2014. Oxygen Therapy. U.S. National Library of Medicine. Internet: <https://medlineplus.gov/oxygentherapy.html>
2. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. 2014. Mayo Clinic. Internet: <http://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/hyperbaric-oxygen-therapy/basics/definition/PRC-20019167?p=1>