

HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY IN REFRACTORY ULCERATIVE COLITIS: A PROSPECTIVE PILOT TRIAL

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Poster

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The PARADOX pilot trial evaluated 10 versus 20 sessions of hyperbaric oxygen therapy as adjunctive treatment in 16 patients with highly refractory moderate-to-severe ulcerative colitis who had failed at least two classes of advanced therapies.

KEY POINTS

- At week 12, composite clinical and endoscopic response was achieved in 2 of 8 patients (25%) with 10 sessions and 4 of 8 patients (50%) with 20 sessions, with numerical trends favoring the higher dose across multiple clinical, endoscopic, symptomatic, and biochemical parameters.
- Clinical responders showed a significant increase in peak enhancement on contrast-enhanced ultrasound (12.1 dB) while non-responders showed a numerical decrease (–5.4 dB), suggesting improved intestinal perfusion in responders with effects numerically larger after 20 sessions.
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy at 2.4 ATA for 120 minutes per day was well tolerated with no dose-limiting toxicities in this population continuing optimized background therapy.
- The authors conclude these findings support feasibility of hyperbaric oxygen as adjunctive therapy and provide rationale for a randomized dose-optimized phase 2 trial with potentially longer treatment duration.

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