

## **TreatNOW: Attacking the Suicide Epidemic and TBI/PTSD/Concussion Crises**

- The **TreatNOW Mission** is to immediately and urgently identify and treat suicidal veterans and others suffering from Concussion/TBI/PTSD. The **TreatNOW Goal** is to ensure that over 800,000 Iraq and Afghanistan brain injured veterans and active duty service members, along with all citizens, get insured access to Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) and other proven alternative medical treatments for their Invisible Wounds.
- The TreatNOW Coalition represents thousands of veterans and citizens nationwide working pro bono to treat and heal brain wounds. We raise every penny to provide help. The website has a Knowledge Base: [www.treatnow.org](http://www.treatnow.org)
- TreatNOW targets are 800,000 brain-wounded veterans and active duty, post-9/11. IT'S BEEN 17 YEARS THAT THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON WHERE THE ARMY AND DOD AND VA REFUSE TO TREAT THE WOUNDS TO THE BRAIN. THEY CONTINUE TO ONLY DEAL WITH SYMPTOMS.
- There are an equal number of brain-injured from the Vietnam era who have never been diagnosed or treated.
- Over 2.5 Million civilians sustain brain injuries every year; the CDC estimates there are 5-7 million brain-wounded citizens who have never been treated to heal the wounds to their brain.
- Average cost to the taxpayer every year for every untreated traumatic brain injury: \$60,000, every year. A huge portion of those costs is the drugs that are prescribed, many that come with warnings about "suicidal ideation". It is slowly dawning on the DOD/VA/Army that their overreliance on opioids led directly to the over prescription of drugs that lead to addiction and fatal overdoses. All because they refuse to treat the WOUND TO THE BRAIN that causes the symptoms.
- The DOD/VA/Army response to brain wounds is to provide an assortment of unproven and expensive drugs to deal with the symptoms of brain wounding: fatigue, frustration, memory loss, balance problems, depression, anger, suicidal thoughts and more.
- TreatNOW has formed a Coalition of 86 clinics across the US. In eight years, over 6,100 brain-wounded veterans have been successfully treated with HBOT.
- What does "success" mean? An improvement in Quality of Life as demonstrated by brain scans; personal reporting by the patient and family; objective computer tests; functional improvements as demonstrated by performance and increased blood flow to the brain where none or little existed before HBOT
- Dozens of Special Operations warriors have been gifted with HBOT treatment; they have been kept on active duty when the military was ready to medically separate them: SEALs, Force Recon Marines, DELTA, Rangers, Green Berets, Air Force combat air controllers. Each success saves the Government over \$2Million in experience and investment.
- Dozens of Professional athletes have been successfully treated, some with injuries that go back decades. The same is true for hundreds of Vietnam veterans.
- The Coalition has been successful in helping Oklahoma, Texas, Indiana, Kentucky and Arizona pass state laws requiring HBOT treatment for veterans with TBI. Over a dozen other states are moving legislation to provide HBOT to their veterans.
- TreatNOW works to educate Congress, DOD, the VA and medicine in general about the epidemic of TBI/PTSD/Concussion. Medicine is resistant to HBOT because they do not believe that something so simple as oxygen-under-pressure can work so well to do what THEY DO NOT BELIEVE IS TRUE: any increase in pressure or the % of oxygen begins to heal the wound to the brain. Seven decades of experience, evidence, peer-reviewed research and over 5,000 walking successes have not yet convinced the DOD, VA or

Congress that they should provide funds to use private HBOT facilities to treat brain wounds. It would make sense to use DOD facilities as well, but those arguments have been unsuccessful.

- But we are gaining momentum. Over 20 Congressmen and women have signed on to pass legislation to use Tricare and CHOICE and MISSION and Medicare funds to pay for treatments, just like the Administration has promised: go outside for help that the VA cannot or will not provide.
- A related note. We have a growing epidemic of concussions in the US, millions every year. The ***Concussion Protocol***, unfortunately, does NOTHING to heal the wound to the brain. A concussion leads to inflammation and cerebral blockage/swelling (deficient supply of blood to the brain that is due to obstruction of the inflow of arterial blood). A host of negative chemical processes begin, along with mitochondrial/cell damage, oxidative damage and apoptosis (cell death). There can be a breakdown of the blood-brain-barrier and brain swelling.
- Tens of thousands of high school, college and professional athletes NEVER are told that there's a proven way to deal with their symptoms that HEALS THE BRAIN while the symptoms begin reversal within hours, not weeks or months. Every parent of a child with a concussion aches to make their symptoms go away; few know how much damage is NOT BEING TREATED that is caused by the negative "concussion cascade": Nausea, headaches, balance, sleeplessness, memory, frustration, vision, hearing, lethargy.
- Dr Daphne Denham, the nation's premier expert on HBOT treatment of acute concussion, reports that 98% of her patients [198 out of 200] treated within ten days of suffering a concussion, completely resolved their symptoms in five treatments or less [average of 2.4 treatments]. You can find her video and presentations at <https://tinyurl.com/ybldktqn>
- HBOT is not a silver bullet that can cure all problems related to war, accidents and brain wounding. BUT IT MUST BE PROVIDED AS ONE OF THE TREATMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE WOUNDED.
- There is a principle in medicine, research, and insurance called "**informed consent.**" It borders on medical malpractice that parents of brain wounded patients are never even told that HBOT is an option.
- If you're asking: "If it works, why aren't we using it?", you're on the right track. Medicine does not like to change. It does not like to admit mistakes. People in general do what they're told, especially when an "expert" tells them so. But that is changing. Parents are asking the right questions; they just need to be told that their kids and their wounded veterans can get help. HBOT is successful in over 85% of cases to dramatically improve Quality of Life. It's time people woke up and demanded HBOT across all sectors of society: insured coverage to get a treatment that is safe and extremely effective.
- Do not be deterred when your doctor says it doesn't work or that it can kill or that it's too expensive. None of that is true. Worldwide evidence in Israel, Russia, China, Canada, Scotland, the Philippines and numerous other countries prove how far behind the US is in doing the right thing. [NOTE: In Israel, any citizen with brain injury is provided HBOT. It is standard of care for blast-wounded Israeli soldiers. Ironically, they will treat US wounded.]

