Wound Care Center

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy is only one of the state-of-the-art therapies that will be used at the new Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine

For most people, cuts and scratches heal within a few days or weeks. However, at any given time, more than six million Americans suffer from chronic, non-healing wounds. For those whose natural healing process is hampered, a simple sore can become a complex medical problem that can significantly alter a person's quality of life.

Wound healing has become a highly specialized field. In response to that fact and a growing need in the community, Eisenhower Medical Center has announced plans to open a new Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine. Scheduled for completion in October 2008, the Center will occupy 2,900 square feet of the first floor of the Bannan Building on the Eisenhower campus. The Wound Care Center's staff will be composed of a multi-disciplinary group of specialized physicians, nurses, therapists and technicians dedicated to the treatment of non-healing wounds.

The outpatient program at Eisenhower Medical Center will use state-of-the-art modalities for wound treatment, including hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HOT), to treat patients. HOT involves having patients breathe 100 percent oxygen while relaxing in a pressurized chamber. The process delivers high concentrations of oxygen to the blood stream and the wound, which rapidly accelerates the healing process.

"With the level of expertise dedicated to these goals, we can expect high healing rates"
—Dr. Gauto

Anibal Gauto, MD, Vascular Surgeon, will serve as Medical Director of the Center. Dr. Gauto, who has practiced at Eisenhower for more than 25 years and has specialized in wound care for more than 30 years, will coordinate an overall care plan for each patient, working in partnership with the patient's physician and other physicians serving as part of the multi-disciplinary team at the Center.

The program will operate by appointment and requires a referral from a primary care physician. *"We are excited to be able to provide this much-needed center to our community,"* says Dr. Gauto. *"Our multidisciplinary team is trained to provide modern comprehensive wound care. By offering them our patients a local facility, we hope to provide them with not only exceptional care, but convenience as well."* The closest facility currently offering these services is located an hour away from Eisenhower Medical Center.

Dr. Gauto notes the program is exclusively devoted to healing problem wounds and helping patients reclaim their quality of life. *"With the level of expertise dedicated to these goals, we can expect high healing rates, even though less than 15 percent of the patients will require Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy,"* says Dr. Gauto.

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