



## Hyperbaric Therapy Helping Heal Wounds

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Reported by [Christine Webb](#)

**MELBOURNE** -- It looks like something you might find under the sea. From the outside, this chamber at the [Wuesthoff Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center](#) is 33 feet long, 10 feet high and weighs 77,000 pounds.

It was frequently used to help those recover from diving accidents.

When people head into this chamber now it's still called a "dive," but now, it's used for chronic wound care to help people heal faster.

Inside, patients are breathing 100 percent oxygen. The treatment quickly delivers high concentrations of oxygen to the bloodstream.

"Sometimes, I find it quite strike what I typically see," said Dr. Lauren Romeo, medical director.

Sherrie Slack is a breast cancer survivor, and is on her seventh treatment.

"You can see changes every day," Slack said.

When you first dive down to about 45 feet, it's about 80 or 90 degrees. Patients stay down for about two hours. When you come back up, it's about 67 degrees.

But many patients describe it like being on an airplane.

"At first it felt like it took like a long time," Slack said. "Your ears would be stuffed and you would have to press on your nose just like an airplane."

That's because patients are feeling the same effects and pressure as if they were at 45 feet sea level.

Doctors say this type of treatment can also help fight infections and stimulate new blood vessels.