



Patient Success Story

Susan Fagans, Lakeland Regional Medical Center

After being diagnosed with cancer of the vocal box, Susan Fagans began a long road to recovery with radiation therapy. In 2006, she underwent a laryngectomy, which resulted in an infection at her surgical site on her throat and neck. To cover her wound, she then received a skin graft.

To assist the patient's healing, she was referred to The Wound Care Center® at Lakeland Regional Medical Center. The Center's team worked closely with the patient and her oncologist to embark on an appropriate course of treatment consisting of regular ongoing HBO therapy.

"The Wound Care Center at Lakeland finished my healing process. They are absolutely wonderful."

The Center's Medical Director, Dr. Fernando Loret De Mola, said, "Given Ms. Fagan's situation – after two surgeries, radiation, diabetes and fibromyalgia – delivering oxygen to help her wound heal was an important, immediate step we needed to take." The treatment was effective, helping the patient's skin graft and wound to heal completely.

After a series of treatments in the Center's hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) chambers, the supportive care of the Center's team of medical professionals was particularly reassuring. "I got attached to these people," said Ms. Fagans. The patient's daughter-in-law, Jamie Fagans, commends the staff for being "excellent and conscientious," adding, "We call them her second family."

Throughout the months, Ms. Fagans received treatment at Lakeland Regional, where her experience exceeded her expectations. "They were wonderful, and compassionate; you just knew you were healing. When people are that positive it really helps the healing process."

These welcome, reassuring feelings continue now – six months later – as Fagans completes her care as an outpatient at the Wound Care Center. "The Center at Lakeland is the catalyst to me being healed."