

The Diving Medical Advisory Committee

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The Use of Heliox in Treating Decompression Illness

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There are many ways of treating decompression illness at raised environmental pressure. DMAC endorses the use by company medical advisers of helium/oxygen mixtures as an option in the treatment of decompression illness arising from air or Trimix diving. Cases have been successfully treated on 50/50 heliox (Comex 30) and on the US Navy recompression tables with 80/20 heliox substituted for air. Helium and oxygen saturation therapy may also be employed.