



Australasian Hyperbaric & Diving Medicine Research Trust

AH&DMRT ROUND 2 GRANT HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY FOR SUDDEN SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS

CLOSURE OF TRIAL

Regrettably, this trial has been abandoned because of events that have severely affected our ability to recruit patients. In the USA, the UHMS have accepted sudden sensorineural hearing loss as a routine therapy despite the conclusions of the Cochrane Review on which our trial was based, while in Australia some centres independently began treating this condition routinely despite the recent MSAC decision not to support Medicare funding for this indication. Both these developments have dissuaded many referrers from allowing their patients to be entered into a randomised and blinded study where their patients have a 50% chance of receiving a sham therapy only. Unfortunately, the true benefit (or otherwise) of HBOT for hearing loss may remain unclear for the indefinite future. The researchers have returned unspent Grant monies and thank the Trust for the original Grant.

Assoc Professor M. Bennett

2 August 2013