

# THE PRESSURE POINT

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## THE TOXIC TRUTH... ABOUT AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES

**M**aria is concerned for her daughter who was an infant at the time when Maria worked in the fields. Not knowing any better, she would come home, wash her hands and breastfeed her baby. She would not shower or change her clothes. Her daughter suffers severe headaches. Maria worries that these headaches are related to her pesticide exposure...

### A HOMEOWNER FACES HEALTH RISKS

Michelle Smylie Clark is another Ventura County resident suffering from long-term illness due to her exposure to pesticides.

Michelle's home is adjacent to agricultural land that houses crops dependent upon an intensive pesticide application schedule (avocado). Michelle was exposed to toxic chemicals in her own driveway, as she heard the familiar sound of a helicopter aerially spraying the crops behind her home. She would never have imagined that something which appeared to be so insignificant would ultimately lead to a lifetime disability. Michelle's eyes, central nervous system, respiratory system, and liver were all severely damaged.

Specifically, within hours after her exposure, her eyes swelled. The next day, her entire head was swollen, with a burn on her face and left shoulder. Michelle felt achy, had a terrible migraine and a



Easily mistaken for an allergic reaction, the effects of chemical poisoning can be devastating to its victims.

very distinct pain in her throat; swallowing was unbearable. By the time she sought medical help, she could not keep her balance, had no facial structure, and she'd immediately ballooned with fifteen pounds of weight, which increased to a thirty-pound weight gain within two weeks. Her heart, kidney and liver were all in a

compromised state. Local doctors were unfamiliar with pesticide poisoning symptoms and assumed that Michelle was experiencing an allergic reaction to something. The chemical Michelle had been sprayed with that day was Agri-mek.

Within two weeks, her face finally stopped peeling off in sheets, and the aches and pains subsided along with all the other discomforts. Six weeks later, Michelle was again exposed near her home as a result of another aerial application of Agri-mek. It was hot and windy, but Michelle had no idea that a helicopter spraying farther away could possibly trigger a

*(Continued on page 2)*

## HYPERBARICS Q&A CORNER

**Q:** I have multiple sclerosis and have recently been introduced to a hyperbaric clinic in my area. My doctor started treating me at 1.5 ATA with 100% oxygen and has incrementally lowered the treatment pressure to about 1.25-1.3 ATA. I have seen some improvements with the changes. My question has more to do with affordability and function of the types of chambers on the market. I am considering buying a chamber and need to know if portable chambers are as good as the monoplace chambers. Please advise.

—Carson Williams, MI

**A:** Certainly the same hyperbaric effects can be achieved with whatever chamber you use, given the same pressure and oxygen protocol. Pressure is pressure, regardless how it is achieved (even by descending altitude—i.e. at The Dead Sea).

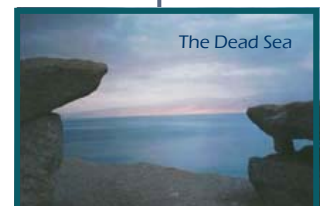
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### Special points of interest:

- Chemical Exposure
- Questions Answered:  
Portable or Mono-  
place Options
- Alternative HBOT  
Indications Program
- A Plastic Surgeon's  
Letter of Thanks



The Dead Sea

## Q & A: PORTABLE VS. MONOPLACE (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 1)*

While the monoplace chambers are able to reach higher pressures (up to 3 ATA), your progress at the lower pressure will not be hindered by the type of vessel you use to achieve a lower pressure prescribed by your doctor.

Note, too, that the purchase of a portable chamber should not replace the medical expertise of your doctor. You may be able to give yourself treatments at home (at a considerable cost-and-space saving advantage), but will still need to remain under the care of your physician, in order to best



The patient and doctor relationship plays a vital role in mapping therapy protocols.

plan your course of care. These chambers are FDA cleared for use in the home and clinic.

Monoplace chambers are a bit more pricey, but, if you are able to afford one, can also be an asset to your care. Depending on your course of treatment, these chambers may be used at even the lowest pressures.

Drawbacks, of course, are space consideration, cost, and use-training (especially with higher pressures), which can be risky and require special city permits in some cities. In general, these chambers are Medical Grade and FDA cleared for use in clinics and medical settings.

—Christina Carlsdotter, MD, MN

## THE TOXIC TRUTH ABOUT AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

second reaction. By evening, the swelling had returned, and that very distinct and excruciating pain returned in her throat—an almost choking-type pain.

When she arrived at the emergency room at the local hospital, the doctor was not interested in considering a pesticide connection, and ordered a Demerol shot and advised Michelle to see her doctor in the morning, dismissing any seriousness. Within a half-hour of the injection, the pain intensity magnified, and she started having alarming heart palpitations. It quickly became evident that Michelle was experiencing a serious drug interaction. Within hours she started reacting to numerous chemicals in her system.

During another acute attack, just days later, she was taken back to the same emergency room physician. This physician was again not interested in her pesticide history, and unfamiliar with common problems associated with chemical exposures. Realizing that she was experiencing some kind of chemical sensitivity problem, Michelle refused all treatment until poison control or an expert was consulted. For reasons still being investigated, Michelle received another shot of Demerol. Within minutes her world went black. She couldn't finish full sentences and would ramble



on and on, not remembering what she'd just said. Her eyes would not open. She became combative, irrational, and a host of neurological problems surfaced. Michelle's family and primary care physician unfortunately were not informed of the serious drug interaction, nor were they told how opiates, combined with pesticide poisoning can exacerbate the initial condition.

Even though Ventura County is considered one of the highest risk counties in the state of California for these types of agricultural accidents, apparently few—if any—physicians in our area have ever been trained to recognize or treat these serious poisoning situations, and most are not even aware that there is such a risk. It took countless phone calls to numerous state agencies and university hospitals before Michelle finally found a doctor specializing in these complex cases.

Michelle was diagnosed with a hypoxic and toxic encephalopathy and immune dysfunction. She now has blood indicators that show a very high risk for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, MS, Lupus, and other auto immune dysfunctions. Without frequent hyperbaric oxygen treatment, and other measures, Michelle is unable to open her eyes, or even function at a limited level.

Her symptoms today, nearly two years later, are typical of chemical-induced Parkinson's. She also suffers from severe ADD, memory problems, lack of focus and energy, tremors, muscle spasms, etc.

Prior to this accident, Michelle ran her own company, took care of a very busy family, and had lots of energy to spare. Now, she feels lucky to be able to drive—on her good days—or to do some of the most basic functions for family and self. As far as Michelle knows, her case was never reported to any of the mandated reporting agencies.

*Editor's Note:* Michelle's story above is currently before the consideration of Governor Gray Davis. Her story is one among many that go unreported to state agencies simply from a lack of proper medical knowledge and politics.

**“...apparently few—if any—physicians in our area have ever been trained to recognize or treat these serious poisoning situations, and most are not even aware that there is such a risk.”**

As seen from her story above, it took countless medical opinions to even diagnose her condition, simply because it lay beyond the “normal” medical expertise of conditions usually treated in hospitals.

As we move into a new era of increased chemical threats—both legal and illegal—we, as consumers and practitioners, need to do all we can to be part of the solution.

## PILOT PROGRAM: ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES CAN NOW BE BILLED TO MEDICAID & MEDICARE

**Opinion by Consumer Advocate  
Tim Bolen**

January 27th 2003

I've got the BIGGEST story in North America Health Freedom, EVER. Here it is.

The conventional medicine stranglehold on healthcare has been broken—period. It was done in Health & Human Services Director Tommy Thompson's office on January 16th, 2003, when Thompson SIGNED the approvals to use a new billing code system called ABC Codes in HIPAA transactions.

Let me explain. Prior to Thompson's action, the world of health practitioners had been dependent, for billing, on two basic systems. One is called the "Diagnostic Codes," and the other is known as the Physicians "Current Procedural Terminology or CPT® codes." The World Health Organization (WHO) owns the rights to the "Diagnostic Codes." The American Medical Association (AMA) owns the rights to the "Current Procedural Terminology or CPT® Codes. Each gets paid money each time the code is used. The codes, both sets, are used to bill Medicaid, Medicare, health insurance, etc.

The WHO "Diagnostic Codes" are simply that—diagnostic codes. But it was the CPT® codes that became the ISSUE in healthcare. Simply, the AMA would NOT issue codes for alternative healthcare. Congress told them. Federal Judges told them. They did not listen. What was happening, of course, was that the AMA was controlling, through its codes, or lack of codes, what actual procedures would be covered.

That's over. The AMA has lost. January 16th, 2003, was their "Waterloo." Enter, from stage left—ABC Codes—which are designed specifically for alternative practitioners.

Understand this. Thompson signed off on the first part of the project—a two year sort of pilot program, where they see how well it works. It's up to YOU to see that it works well. There is a 60

day sign up period. The clock is running. It started January 16th, 2003. Health practitioners —GET INVOLVED RIGHT NOW!

There is a website you need to visit to read more about this. Read ALL of it. They have gained the approval of every agency of "standards" in the United States. They have over 4,200 codes available right now. You've got to go to the website:

[www.alternativelink.com...](http://www.alternativelink.com...)

'This "Millions of Health Freedom Fighters—Newsletter" is about the battle between "Health and Medicine" on Planet Earth. Tim Bolen is a writer with extensive knowledge of the activities of a subversive organization calling itself the "quackbusters," and that organization's attempts to suppress and discredit, any, and all health modalities that compete with the allopathic (MD) paradigm for consumer health dollars.

**"The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued a 60-day registration extension. Registration cutoff is set for Thursday, May 29, 2003."**



The focus of the newsletter is on the ongoing activities, battles, politics, and the victories won by members of the "Health Freedom Movement" against the "quackbusters." It details "who the quackbusters are, what they are, where they are operating, when they appear, and now they operate—and how easy it is to beat them...'

**Editor's note:** Although hyperbaric therapy is a mainstream therapy within the allopathic world, this Pilot Program stands to affect various "off-label" neurological and physical treatment indications, which are currently being treated by doctors with great success—*anecdotal or not.*

**UPDATE**—The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued a 60-day registration extension. **Registration cutoff is set for Thursday, May 29, 2003.** This extended registration deadline will allow you to ensure your trading partners, business associates and vendors are also properly registered as ABC code users. Once both you and they are properly registered, you will be able to conduct business transactions with them using the ABC code set. **Sign Up Today!**

## SHARED MD TESTIMONIALS

*A Letter of thanks to the Chamber Manufacturer and Sales Company:*

*I have been using your hyperbaric chamber for almost one year now and have been experiencing some excellent outcomes with my surgical patients. Initially I was using the chamber in my Aesthetic and Anti-Aging clinic, but found it to be an excellent modality for post-operative healing. My laser resurfacing and face-lift patients heal at least 50% faster when I incorporate hyperbaric therapy. I am also having excellent outcomes with sclerotherapy patients.*

*Although I was reluctant to incorporate hyperbaric in my practice, I must thank you for being so persistent as the hyperbaric chamber is an excellent addition to my practice. If you have any physicians questioning the efficacy of hyperbarics, please have them contact me to discuss questions they may have.*

*Sincerely,  
David N. Michelson, M.D.*

## INTERNATIONAL HYPERBARICS ASSOCIATION



"Mundo vitam dare"

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The *International Hyperbarics Association* is a coalition of doctors, parents, patients, corporate chamber manufacturers, hyperbaric center owners, and above all members who are committed to the cause of medical hyperbarics. Our members come to us from all geographical areas with one common goal— to share their knowledge and information regarding the latest hyperbaric news. Our driving force is our members, who are committed to do all we can "to give life to the world."

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