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Hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapy has been applied clinically in various fields of medicine, and still further developments in recognizing the indications for starting such treatment are expected. This up-to-date volume provides important information for the clinical use of HBO therapy in the field of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery. The first chapter by Takahasi and Kobayashi, specialists in HBO therapy, explains the general indications and complications of HBO therapy emphasizing the new trend in its indications as introduced by them.

Subsequently, the effectiveness of HBO therapy in the field of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery is described. HBO therapy plays an important role in the management of osteoradionecrosis as well as for bone-anchored reconstruction with implants in irradiated head and neck cancer patients, and this is dealt with in the chapters by Brown and co-workers and Granström. Necrotizing soft tissue infections of the cervical region continue to be among the most life-threatening of the inflammatory processes, even in the era of broad-spectrum antibiotics and advanced technological supportive care. The role of HBO therapy in the treatment of necrotizing infections is stressed in the chapter by Scher. Idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss, noise-induced hearing loss, and tinnitus are challenging problems for otologists because of the difficulties in finding the right treatment for many cases. The role of HBO therapy in these disorders is described in the two chapters by Lamm’s group and in the one by Nakashima and co-workers. Another new indication for HBO therapy in the field of otology is facial palsy, and this is described in the chapter by Makishima and co-workers. The last chapter, by Ueda and colleagues, describes the otological complications caused by HBO

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therapy from the perspective that not only indications but also complications should be given sufficient consideration. In our opinion, HBO therapy has a potential role in the treatment of various diseases in the field of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, and we hope that this volume will contribute to understanding the role of HBO therapy in this field.

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