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**EFEITOS DA OXIGENOTERAPIA HIPERBÁRICA EM PARÂMETROS
HEMATOLÓGICOS, LACTATEMIA E HEMOGASOMETRIA DE
GATAS SUBMETIDAS À OVARIOHISTERECTOMIA ELETIVA**

Santa Maria, RS
2021

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**Efeitos da oxigenoterapia hiperbárica em parâmetros hematológicos,
lactatemia e hemogasometria de gatas submetidas à ovariohisterectomia
eletiva videoassistida**

Dissertação apresentada ao Curso de Pós-Graduação em Medicina Veterinária, Área de Cirurgia e Clínica de Pequenos Animais, da Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM, RS), como requisito parcial para a obtenção do título de **Mestre em Medicina Veterinária**

Orientador: Prof. Dr. Maurício Veloso Brun

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(Charles Bukowski)

RESUMO

EFEITOS DA OXIGENOTERAPIA HIPERBÁRICA EM PARÂMETROS HEMATOLÓGICOS, LACTATEMIA E HEMOGASOMETRIA DE GATAS SUBMETIDAS À OVARIOHISTERECTOMIA ELETIVA VIDEOASSISTIDA.

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A oxigenoterapia hiperbárica vem despontando como modalidade terapêutica no manejo de diversas afecções agudas e crônicas, tanto na medicina humana quanto veterinária. Sua aplicação leva à hiperoxigenação tecidual, imunomodulação e redução do estresse oxidativo em humanos. A ovariohisterectomia (OVH) eletiva consiste em um dos procedimentos cirúrgicos mais realizados na rotina da clínica de pequenos animais, e tem papel tanto no controle da concepção quanto na prevenção de diversas afecções. Existem diferentes técnicas para a execução da OVH minimamente invasiva, destacando-se entre elas a abordagem videoassistida. Não há na literatura registros das alterações fisiológicas em felinos submetidos à oxigenoterapia hiperbárica. Com esse estudo, objetivou-se avaliar as consequências do uso de oxigenoterapia em câmara hiperbárica em felinos submetidos à ovariohisterectomia videoassistida com dois portais no pré-operatório, além da sua influência sobre a gasometria sanguínea, lactatemia e contagem de células sanguíneas. Para isso, 42 gatas foram separadas em três grupos para avaliação destes efeitos, sendo eles: Grupo Sham (GS), Grupo Hiperbárica (GH) e Grupo Hiperbárica Controle (GHC). Realizou-se avaliação hematológica, da lactatemia e gasometria venosa. Concluiu-se que não há influência significativa de pré-tratamento com HBOT sobre parâmetros como excesso de base em felinos hígidos. A HBOT pode levar ao aumento do lactato sérico em felinos e a queda do pH, sem necessariamente causar acidose metabólica. Há influência positiva da HBOT nos valores de pO₂ e pCO₂. Pode haver queda nos valores de hematócrito, hemácias e hemoglobina, sendo recomendado a realização de hemograma de controle antes da sessão. Pode ser esperada leucocitose com neutrofilia e linfopenia.

Palavras-chave: Oxigenoterapia hiperbárica, Videocirurgia, Perfusão, Hemograma, Gasometria venosa.

ABSTRACT

EFFECTS OF HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY ON HEMATOLOGICAL PARAMETERS, LACTATEMIA AND HEMOGASOMETRY OF CATS UNDERGOING VIDEO-ASSISTED OVARIOHYSTERECTOMY

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Hyperbaric oxygen therapy has emerged as a therapeutic modality in the management of several acute and chronic conditions, both in human and veterinary medicine. Its application leads to tissue hyperoxygenation, immunomodulation and reduction of oxidative stress in humans. The elective ovariohysterectomy (OHE) is one of the most common surgical procedures performed in the small animal clinic, and has a role both in preventing mating and various conditions. There are different techniques for the execution of minimally invasive OHE, with emphasis on the video-assisted approach. There are no records in literature of physiological changes in cats undergoing hyperbaric oxygen therapy. This study aimed to evaluate the consequences of using oxygen therapy in a hyperbaric chamber in cats in the preoperative period of video-assisted ovariohysterectomy with two portals, in addition to assess its influence on blood gas analysis, lactatemia and blood cell count. Cats were separated into three groups to analyse these effects, namely: Sham Group (GS), Hyperbaric Group (GH) and Hyperbaric Control Group (GHC). Hematological, lactatemia and venous blood gas analysis was performed. It was concluded that there is no significant influence of pre-treatment with HBOT on parameters such as base excess in healthy cats. HBOT can lead to an increase in serum lactate in cats and a decrease in pH, without necessarily causing metabolic acidosis. There is a positive influence of HBOT in pO₂ and pCO₂ values. There may be a drop in the hematocrit, red blood cells and hemoglobin values, and it is recommended to carry out a control blood count before the session. Leukocytosis with neutrophilia and lymphopenia can be expected..

Keywords: Hyperbaric oxygen therapy, video surgery, perfusion, blood count, venous blood gas analysis.

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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS

ATA: Atmosferas absolutas

BE: Excesso de base

CO₂: Dióxido de carbono

F3: Feromônio facial felino

GH: Grupo hiperbárica

GHC: Grupo hiperbárica controle

GS: Grupo sham

HBOT: Oxigenoterapia hiperbárica

IM: Intramuscular

IV: Intravenoso

O₂: Oxigênio

OHE: Ovariohisterectomia

pCO₂: Pressão parcial de dióxido de carbono

pH: Potencial hidrogeniônico

pO₂: Pressão parcial de oxigênio

PSI: Libra-força por polegada quadrada

q12h: A cada 12h

SC: Subcutâneo

T0: Tempo 0

T1: Tempo 1

T3: Tempo 3

T5: Tempo 5

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APRESENTAÇÃO

Esta dissertação está estruturada em seções dispostas da seguinte forma: Introdução; Objetivos; Desenvolvimento (Referencial Teórico, Manuscrito Científico); Conclusão e Referências.

Os itens Material e Métodos, Resultados, Discussão e Referências encontram inseridos no manuscrito na seção “Produção Científica” e representam a íntegra desse estudo.

A “Lista de Referências” se refere ao referencial utilizado nos itens anteriores ao manuscrito, e o item “Referências” refere-se às referências utilizadas no manuscrito.

1. INTRODUÇÃO

A oxigenoterapia hiperbárica (HBOT) consiste em um método antigo de tratamento (EDWARDS, 2010). Embora os primeiros registros do uso de terapia hiperbárica em humanos datem de 1662, somente em 1887 foram relatados os primeiros resultados da aplicação da técnica na medicina veterinária, os quais demonstraram a capacidade de redução do status febril de coelhos em sepse induzida após sessões em câmara hiperbárica (BEAN, 1945).

Com mais câmaras sendo disponibilizadas e mais pesquisas demonstrando o benefício do seu uso, a HBOT tem se destacado cada vez mais como opção terapêutica, tanto na medicina humana quanto veterinária. Além disso, consiste em uma técnica com diversas aplicações, como em situações emergenciais tais como intoxicação por monóxido de carbono, síndrome compartimental, acidentes ofídicos e lesões nervosas centrais. Ademais, pode também ser empregada em afecções de evolução crônica, como nos casos de lesões com cicatrização retardada, queimaduras e flapes ou enxertos cutâneos (EDWARDS, 2010).

A ovariohisterectomia (OVH) é amplamente utilizada tanto para esterilização eletiva quanto para tratamento de doenças do trato reprodutivo ou auxílio na estabilização de doenças sistêmicas, sendo o procedimento cirúrgico mais realizado na década passada casuística veterinária de pequenos animais (FERREIRA et al., 2011; HEDLUND, 2008). Além disso, pode diminuir o risco de desenvolvimento de neoplasias mamárias e piometra (DAVIDSON et al., 2004).

Muitas variações da técnica cirúrgica de OVH têm sido descritas, desde a abordagem convencional via celiotomia mediana, até as abordagens

minimamente invasivas laparoscópicas (DALMOLIN, 2016) ou videocirúrgicas, nas suas diferentes modalidades. Os acessos minimamente invasivos vêm ganhando popularidade por apresentarem diversas vantagens quando comparada as cirurgias convencionais. Entre essas vantagens, podemos citar menor estímulo álgico pós-operatórios devido ao menor dano tecidual somático, reduzido período de hospitalização pós-operatória, menor risco de deiscência e hemorragia, redução na formação de aderências e melhores resultados estéticos (DUQUE e MORENO, 2015; FERREIRA et al., 2011; MALM et al., 2004).

Os procedimentos envolvendo o uso de HBOT em felinos são realizados a partir de informações obtidas em outras espécies, não havendo ainda pesquisas com foco na espécie em questão. Desta forma, não há informação disponível para a avaliação da interferência da HBOT nos padrões fisiológicos em felinos. Explorar a variação de parâmetros basais em felinos saudáveis submetidos à HBOT precedendo procedimento eletivo permite que a técnica ganhe respaldo científico visando a aplicabilidade na terapêutica de animais doentes através da extração destes dados para situações patológicas.

2. OBJETIVOS

2.1. OBJETIVO GERAL

Avaliar as consequências do uso da oxigenoterapia hiperbárica pré-operatória sobre a contagem de células sanguíneas, gasometria e lactatemia em gatas submetidas à ovariohisterectomia videoassistida com dois portais.

2.2. OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS

- a. Identificar se há alterações em marcadores de perfusão periférica (como lactatemia) nos animais que passarem por tratamento com oxigenoterapia hiperbárica pré-cirúrgica;
- b. Determinar se o pré-tratamento em oxigenoterapia hiperbárica promove alteração de gasometria sanguínea nas gatas avaliadas;
- c. Identificar possíveis alterações hematológicas significativas decorrentes do pré-tratamento com oxigenoterapia hiperbárica.

3. REFERENCIAL TEÓRICO

A oxigenoterapia hiperbárica consiste na administração de oxigênio a 100% a uma pressão acima de 1 atmosfera absoluta (ATA) em uma câmara (EDWARDS, 2010). Sob essas condições a pressão parcial de oxigênio aumenta de 100 mmHg (ar ambiente com pressão de 1 ATA) para 1400 mmHg à 2 ATA com oxigênio à 100%, levando à uma hiperoxia transitória (GAUTIER et al., 2020).

Oxigênio é necessário para prover energia e possibilitar a respiração celular, portanto um aporte deficitário de oxigênio leva à morte das células. Um animal doente possui menor capacidade de transporte de O₂ ao passo que aumenta a necessidade tecidual deste gás, levando ao colapso do sistema e gerando estresse oxidativo (YANAGISAWA et al., 2011).

Segundo Jain (2004), os princípios da HBOT são baseados em como gases de diferentes solubilidades se comportam nos tecidos e fluidos corporais sob diferentes pressões e volumes, fenômeno este determinado pelas leis do comportamento gasoso descritas por Henry, Fick e Boyle. A lei de Henry descreve como a pressão do gás afeta sua concentração no interior dos tecidos, enquanto a de Fick refere-se à taxa de difusão de um gás através destes tecidos. Já a lei de Boyle diz respeito ao comportamento dos gases sob pressão.

Há diversos mecanismos propostos para justificar os benefícios fisiológicos da HBOT (GEMMA, DARREN e MATTHEW, 2018). Os efeitos primários da HBOT consistem em aumentar a oxigenação tecidual e redução de bolhas gasosas em vasos e tecidos (lei de Boyle). Os efeitos fisiológicos secundários são resultados do estresse oxidativo à curto prazo e incluem

resposta antioxidant compensatória, modulação da resposta imune e inflamatória, aumento da atividade antibacteriana, angiogênese, estímulo de fatores de crescimento, vasoconstricção e redução de edema vasogênico (BAI et al., 2014). Seus possíveis efeitos adversos incluem pneumotórax, barotrauma, toxicidade pulmonar e convulsões (HEYBOER, SHARMA e SANTIAGO, 2017).

A função respiratória, especificamente a capacidade de oxigenação e ventilação pode ser avaliada através de hemogasometria. Embora a oximetria de pulso possa ser usada na detecção de hipóxia, a gasometria, especialmente a aferição da pO_2 , segue sendo o padrão ouro. A obtenção dos resultados de hemogasometria é crucial para pacientes com afecções agudas tais como sepse, trauma, insuficiência respiratória ou falência de órgãos, assim como na monitoração de quadros crônicos (GONZALEZ e WADDELL, 2016).

A gasometria sanguínea pode ser realizada através de amostras de sangue arterial ou venoso. Nos felinos o pH venoso é consideravelmente inferior ao pH arterial, enquanto a pCO_2 venosa é mais alta que a arterial, levando ao aumento na concentração de bicarbonato, porém sem alterações significativas no excesso de base (TAMURA et al., 2015).

Amostras de sangue venoso são mais simples de coletar, geram menor desconforto ao paciente e podem ser coletadas de forma repetida com menor possibilidade de trombose em consequência da punção (RIESER, 2013). Em pacientes felinos, é recomendada sempre que possível a coleta venosa, especialmente em animais não anestesiados, devido ao estresse gerado pela punção e pelo risco de acidentes tromboembólicos com punções sequenciais. Parâmetros aferidos através da hemogasometria incluem o pH, pO_2 , pCO_2 ,

diversos eletrólitos e metabólitos como bicarbonato, ácido carbônico, lactato, glicose, entre outros.

O pH é definido como sendo o logaritmo negativo da concentração de íons de hidrogênio (H^+) e é aferido para determinar o grau de acidez ou alcalinidade de uma solução. Acidose respiratória é caracterizada pela queda no pH e aumento da pCO_2 , frequentemente em conjunção com um aumento de bicarbonato e excesso de base (BE) compensatórios. Costuma ser o resultado de insuficiência respiratória e hipoventilação. Alcalose respiratória é caracterizada por um aumento no pH e decréscimo na pCO_2 , associado à consequente queda no bicarbonato e BE. Costuma ser o resultado de hiperoxia e hiperventilação (GONZALEZ e WADDELL, 2016).

A pressão parcial ou tensão de gás é se caracteriza pela pressão exercida por um gás em uma mistura de gases ou em um líquido. Essa pressão parcial é refletida através da proporção da concentração do gás em relação à pressão total da mistura. A pressão parcial de um gás é calculada através da multiplicação da porção de gás na amostra pela pressão total. O controle central da ventilação altera a pCO_2 sanguínea. Devido à combinação de gás carbônico e água levar à produção de ácido carbônico, ao diminuir a ventilação e aumentar a pCO_2 o pH sanguíneo diminui. Ao aumentar a capacidade ventilatória e diminuir a pCO_2 o pH sanguíneo pode ser aumentado (DIBARTOLA, 2012).

O lactato consiste em um subproduto do metabolismo anaeróbico, e é um biomarcador útil ao diagnóstico e prognóstico de choque em medicina humana e veterinária, por refletir um desequilíbrio na quantidade de oxigênio demandada pelo tecido e a quantidade recebida por este. É um parâmetro seguro para avaliação de perfusão tecidual em gatos pois sofre pouca influência dos métodos

de coleta (REDAVID, 2012), embora uma manipulação cuidadosa do paciente na obtenção de amostras para análise seja imprescindível para evitar hiperlactatemia por estresse (RAND et al., 2002).

O hemograma consiste em um exame diagnóstico para pacientes com alguma afecção clinicopatológica, bem como parte da inspeção de rotina de indivíduos saudáveis. Um estudo realizado por Sinan et al (2016) demonstrou uma queda significativa do hematócrito e contagem de hemácias após algumas sessões de HBOT em pacientes com diversas afecções. Contudo, Gunes e Aktas (2017) realizaram um estudo em que pacientes humanos foram submetidos à mais de 60 sessões de HBOT, e não houve alteração significativa nos valores de hemácias, hemoglobina e hematócrito em nenhum dos grupos avaliados.

Leucocitose consiste no aumento da contagem total de leucócitos e é considerada um achado comum em exames laboratoriais. Em geral é relacionada a condições relativamente benignas, como presença de infecção ou processos inflamatórios (CHABOT-RICHARDS e GEORGE, 2014). A contagem periférica de células brancas pode dobrar dentro de poucas horas após certos estímulos devido ao grande reservatório intramedular e *pools* intravasculares de neutrófilos marginalizados. Fatores capazes de gerar leucocitose aguda incluem procedimentos cirúrgicos, exercício, trauma e estressores psicológicos. Estresse físico ou emocional pode levar ao aumento da contagem leucocitária total, combinada ao aumento da fração de neutrófilos e diminuição da fração linfocitária (RILEY e RUPERT, 2015).

4. PRODUÇÃO CIENTÍFICA

Os resultados inseridos nesta dissertação apresentam-se sob a forma de manuscrito científico, o qual se encontra aqui estruturado. Os itens Material e Métodos, Resultados e Discussão, Conclusão e Referências, encontram-se no próprio artigo (Item 4).

4.1. MANUSCRITO

Effects of hyperbaric oxygen therapy on hematological parameters, lactatemia
and blood gas analysis of cats undergoing elective video-assisted
ovariohysterectomy

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Effects of hyperbaric oxygen therapy on hematological parameters, lactatemia and blood gas analysis of cats undergoing elective video-assisted ovariohysterectomy

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Key words: Hyperbaric oxygen therapy, Perfusion, Blood count, Blood gas analysis.

Abstract

Objectives: To evaluate the influence of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) - at a 2 ATA pressure for 45 minutes - in the blood count, lactatemia and venous blood gas analysis of healthy cats undergoing video-assisted ovariohysterectomy.

Methods: 42 healthy queens were randomly divided into three groups: GH (animals received HBOT at a pressure of 2 ATA for 45 minutes and were subsequently submitted to OHE), GHC (animals received HBOT at a pressure of 2 ATA for 45 minutes) and GS (animals submitted to OHE). Blood samples for hematological analysis were collected at times T0 (before any procedure) and T5 (72h after extubation) and blood samples for venous blood gas analysis and lactatemia were collected at times T1 (after pre-medication) and T3 (after extubation).

Results: There were no significant changes to base excess. The values of hematocrit ($p = 0.018$), hemoglobin ($p = 0.01$) and red blood cells ($p = 0.0018$) decreased between T0 and T5 in GH. Total leukocytes ($p = 0.0062$) and neutrophils ($p = 0.0055$) increased between T0 and T5 in GH. Lymphocytes decreased in Time 5 in GHC in relation to T5 of GS ($p = 0.027$). The lactate values

were higher at T1 ($p = 0.021$) and T3 ($p = 0.025$) in GHC compared to GS, and higher at T3 in GHC compared to T3 in GH (0.035). The pH was lower in T3 than in T1 in GH ($p = 0.03$), lower in T3 in GH compared to T3 in GHC ($p = 0.0017$) and lower in T3 in SHAM compared to T3 in GHC ($p = 0.0097$). The pO_2 was higher in T1 ($p = 0.014$) and T3 ($p = 0.0026$) in GH than it was in GHC. It was also higher in T1 ($p = 0.0013$) and T3 ($p = 0.0026$) in the SHAM group compared to GHC. For pCO_2 , T1 ($p = 0.02$) and T3 ($p = 0.008$) in GH were greater than that of GHC, and T1 ($p = 0.05$) and T3 ($p = 0.059$) in GS were greater than that of GHC. There was an increase between T1 and T3 in GH ($p = 0.04$).

Conclusions and relevance: HBOT can lead to an increase in serum lactate in cats and a decrease in pH, without necessarily causing metabolic acidosis. There is a positive influence of HBOT in pO_2 and pCO_2 values. There may be a drop in the hematocrit, red blood cells and hemoglobin values, and it is recommended to carry out a control blood count before the session. Leukocytosis with neutrophilia and lymphopenia can be expected.

1 **Introduction**

2 Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) consists of the administration of 100%
3 oxygen at a pressure above 1 absolute atmosphere (ATA) in a chamber¹. Oxygen
4 is necessary to provide energy and enable cellular respiration, so a deficient
5 supply of oxygen leads to the death of cells.

6 In a diseased animal there is a decrease of O₂ transporting capacity while
7 increasing the tissue's need for this gas, leading to the collapse of the gas
8 homeostatic system². There are several mechanisms proposed to justify the
9 physiological benefits of HBOT, such as plasma oxygen availability, tissue
10 hyperoxygenation, barometric effect, immunomodulation and reduction of
11 oxidative stress³.

12 Ovariohysterectomy (OHE) is widely used both for elective sterilization and
13 in the treatment of diseases of the reproductive tract or aid in the stabilization of
14 systemic diseases^{4,5}. In addition, it can decrease the risks of patients mammary
15 malignancies and pyometra⁶. Minimally invasive approaches have been gaining
16 popularity as they present several advantages when compared to conventional
17 surgeries.⁷.

18 No information is available to assess HBOT interference in feline
19 physiological patterns. In addition, the present study is the first to explore baseline

20 parameters in healthy cats undergoing HBOT preceding an elective procedure,
21 relevant data due to the future possibility of using this therapeutic option in sick
22 animals prior to surgery.

23 This study aims to identify possible changes in hematological and
24 peripheral perfusion markers in animals undergoing treatment with pre-surgical
25 HBOT, in addition to determining whether the pretreatment in hyperbaric oxygen
26 therapy promotes alteration of blood gas analysis in the cats undergoing OHE.

27

28 **Materials and methods**

29 The study was approved by the Ethics Committee on the Use of Animals
30 at the Federal University of Santa Maria (nº 513426082). An informed consent
31 form was signed by all patient owners involved in the project.

32 Forty-two queens weighing between 1.5 and 5 kg, aged 8 months old to 5
33 years old and of undefined breed, considered healthy from clinical and laboratory
34 examination were selected to participate in this study. Inclusion criteria included
35 tolerance to manipulation, evidenced by the absence of aggression at the time of
36 thoracic limb trichotomy and venipuncture for blood collection.

37 The cats went through an adaptation period of three days in order to get
38 used to the place and the team. In this environment, a synthetic analogue of the
39 feline facial pheromone (F3) was spread 24 hours before the hospitalization. The
40 animals remained in individual boxes with paper boxes, pillows and blankets,
41 water and food containers and a litter box. They were given water and food *ad*
42 *libitum*.

43 On the fourth day the animals were fasted for 8 hours and then randomly
44 assinged to three groups with 14 patients each: GH (hyperbaric group: animals
45 pretreated with HBOT at a pressure of 2 ATA for 45 minutes and undergoing
46 elective video-assisted OHE), GHC (hyperbaric control group: animals treated
47 with HBOT at a pressure of 2 ATA for 45 minutes) and GS (sham group: animals
48 undergoing elective video-assisted OHE).

49 For blood gas analysis, lactatemia and blood count, blood samples were
50 collected from patients at different times. Blood samples of 0.5 ml were collected
51 for complete blood count at the following times:

52 Time 0 (T0) = prior to any procedures;

53 Time 5 (T5) = 72h after the end of the surgical procedure. For those
54 patients who did not undergo a surgical procedure, T5 collections occurred 72
55 hours after pre-medication reversal.

56 0.6ml blood samples were collected from the jugular vein with a syringe
57 prepared with sodium heparin for blood gas analysis. The parameters evaluated
58 in the gas analysis involved pH, partial pressure of oxygen (pO_2), partial pressure
59 of carbon dioxide (pCO_2) and base excess (BE). Blood lactatemia was measured
60 with a drop of blood. These parameters were evaluated at two different times:

61 Time 1 (T1) = Immediately before the start of surgery, in anesthetic
62 stabilization. For patients not undergoing surgery, T1 was collected 25 minutes
63 after the application of anesthetic pre-medication.

64 Time 3 (T3) = At the time of extubation. For patients not undergoing
65 surgery, T3 was collected 30 minutes after pre-medication reversal .

66 Gasometry was assessed using a blood gas analyzer (Cobas B221 Roche
67 OMNI S), and lactatemia using a portable lactate analyzer (Accutrend® Plus -
68 Roche).

69 Patients in the GH and GHC groups underwent hyperbaric oxygen therapy
70 (HBOT) under a pressure of 2 ATA (equivalent to 15 PSI) for 45 minutes prior to
71 the application of pre-anesthetic medication. The chamber was pressurized to 15
72 PSI over a period of 15 minutes, remaining under treatment pressure for 45
73 minutes and then depressurized for another 15 minutes. Throughout the session

74 oxygen concentration, carbon dioxide concentration and chamber pressure
75 parameters were recorded every 5 minutes.

76 All animals went through the same anesthetic protocol, being pre-
77 medicated with dexmedetomidine hydrochloride (20 µg / kg, IM). After 25 minutes,
78 trichotomy and venous access of the cephalic vein were performed.

79 For those patients who did not undergo surgical procedure (GHC group)
80 T1 blood samples were collected 25 minutes after the premedication. Then,
81 reversion with atipemazole was performed and after 30 minutes samples were
82 obtained for T3. For groups undergoing surgery, T1 samples were collected
83 immediately before starting the surgery.

84 General anesthesia was induced with propofol (5 ± 1.3 mg/kg, IV) and
85 maintained with isoflurane carried in oxygen. After anesthetic stabilization
86 patients received atipamezole (10 µg/kg, IM).

87 The video-assisted OHE was performed by a team of proficient surgeons.
88 The pneumoperitoneum pressure adopted was 6 mmHg and it lasted for 30
89 minutes. Analgesia was obtained with continuous infusion of remifentanil
90 hydrochloride (10 µg/kg/h, IV). Lactated Ringer's solution was administered
91 throughout the procedure (3 ml/kg/h, IV). During the trans-anesthetic period,
92 heart rate, respiratory rate, electrocardiogram, central temperature, perfusion
93 index, rectal temperature and partial O₂ saturation were continuously monitored.

94 After the patients' extubation, blood samples were collected for the
95 measurement of venous blood gases and lactatemia for T3. After the end of the
96 surgery, the animals received dipyrone (25 mg / kg, SC, q12h for three days). T5
97 samples were collected 72 hours after extubation. Immediately after T5 sample
98 collections, patients in the GHC group underwent conventional OHE, and then
99 afterwards all patients were discharged.

100 For statistical analysis of the data regarding blood count, blood gas
101 analysis and lactatemia a two-way analysis of variance test was performed, with
102 repeated measurement, followed by Duncan's Multiple Range test

103

104 **Results**

105 46 cats were selected for this study, and four were excluded. The first was
106 excluded due to the need to change the anesthetic protocol due to severe
107 hypotension and the others due to the impossibility of management due to the
108 aggressive behavior displayed during the hospitalization period. The remaining
109 42 cats were randomly distributed among the GH, GHC and SHAM groups in
110 order to compose a total of 14 patients per group. These had an average age of
111 21.8 months and weighed an average of 3.05 kg (Table 1).

112 There were no complications regarding surgical and anesthetic
113 procedures. There were no adverse effects related to HBOT. The values of the

114 blood count variables are described in Tables 2 and 3, while the findings of
 115 venous blood gas and lactate are listed in Table 4. The values of bicarbonate
 116 were not assessed by this research due to a systemic fault in the blood gas
 117 analyzer.

Table 1. Demographic data

	GH	GS	GHC
Age (months)	27,7	20,69	17,7
Weight (kg)	3,3	3,05	2,81

GH = hyperbaric group; GS = Sham group; GHC = hyperbaric control group

118 There was no difference between the comparisons of base excess
 119 between the groups and evaluated times. The blood count values, despite
 120 oscillating, remained within the reference ranges according to Cornell University
 121 (2008).

122 There was a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the values of hematocrit,
 123 hemoglobin, erythrocytes, total leukocytes and neutrophils between the initial and
 124 final times of the GHC group. The values of hematocrit ($p = 0.018$), hemoglobin
 125 ($p = 0.01$) and erythrocytes ($p = 0.0018$) showed a substantial drop between Time
 126 0 and Time 5 in GH (Figure 1), whereas the values of total leukocytes ($p = 0.0062$)
 127 and neutrophils ($p = 0.0055$) increased between times 0 and 5 in this same group.

128 The lymphocyte count was reduced in Time 5 in GHC in relation to T5 in the
 129 SHAM group ($p = 0.027$), as shown in Figure 2.

Table 2. Comparison of erythrogram variables between collection times

	GH		GS		GHC	
Parameter	Time 0	Time 5	Time 0	Time 5	Time 0	Time 5
Ht	40,7±0,31	35,31±0,33*	38,2±0,47	34,9±0,49	35,67±0,62 [#]	32,16±0,59
Hg	13,53±0,10	11,77±0,11*	12,7±0,15	11,93±0,14	11,80±0,17 [#]	10,80±0,18
Hm	8,84±0,08	7,44±0,08*	8,49±0,12	7,77±0,10	7,59±0,11	6,94±0,12

*Different from the 1st time ($p <0.05$); [#] Different from the GH group in the same period of time ($p <0.05$); GH = hyperbaric group; GS = Sham group; GHC = hyperbaric control group; Time 0 = before HBOT for groups GH and GHC and before OHE for GS; Time 5 = 72h post-extubation; Ht = hematocrit; Hg = Hemoglobin; Hm = red blood cells

Table 3. Comparison of white blood cell variables between collection times

	GH		GS		GHC	
	Time 0	Time 5	Time 0	Time 5	Time 0	Time 5
Leu	11235±1089	16017±1615*	12908±1473	16052±1646	18292±2593	16033±1958
Neu	7520±822	11501±1505*	8234±1059	9295±1107	13.466±2247	11731±1527
Lym	2928±439	3060±4163	3368±446	4527±585	2950±412	2617±393 ⁺

*Different from the 1st time ($p <0.05$); ⁺ Different from the GH group in the same period of time ($p <0.05$); ⁺ Different from the SHAM group in the same time period of time. GH = hyperbaric group; GS = Sham group; GHC = hyperbaric control group; Time 0 = before HBOT for groups GH and GHC and before OHE for GS; Time 5 = 72h post-extubation; Leu = Leukocytes; Neu = Neutrophils; Lym = Lymphocytes

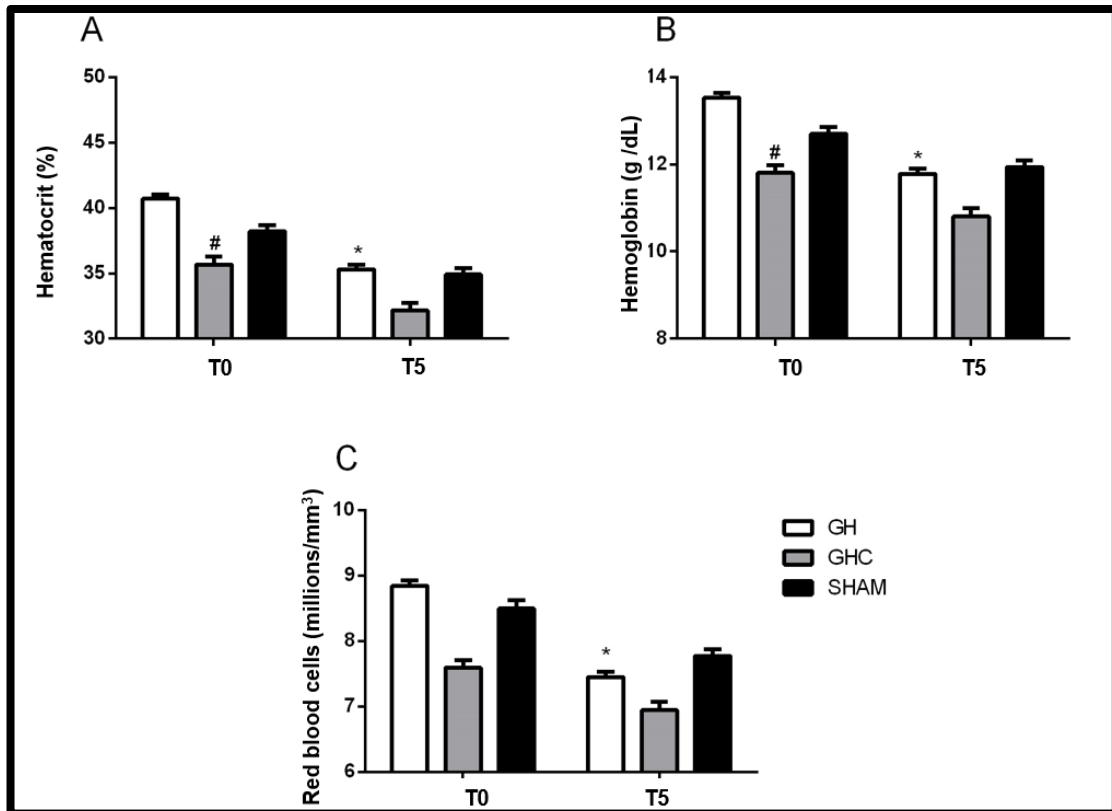


Figure 1. Mean values of Hematocrit (A), Hemoglobin (B) and Red Blood Cells (C) in groups GH, GHC and SHAM at times T0 and T5. * Different from the 1st time ($p < 0.05$); # Different from the GH group in the same period of time ($p < 0.05$); + Different from the SHAM group in the same time period. GH = hyperbaric group; SHAM = Sham group; GHC = hyperbaric control group; Time 0 = before HBOT for groups GH and GHC and before OHE for GS; Time 5 = 72h post-extubation

130 The lactate values (Figure 3) were higher at T1 ($p = 0.021$) and T3 ($p =$
 131 0.025) in GHC when compared to the SHAM group. In addition, they were higher
 132 in T3 in GHC when compared to T3 in GH (0.035). The pH showed a significant
 133 reduction from T1 to T3 in GH ($p = 0.03$), in addition to being lower in T3 in GH

134 when compared to T3 in GHC ($p = 0.0017$) and lower in T3 in SHAM when
 135 compared to T3 in GHC ($p = 0.0097$).

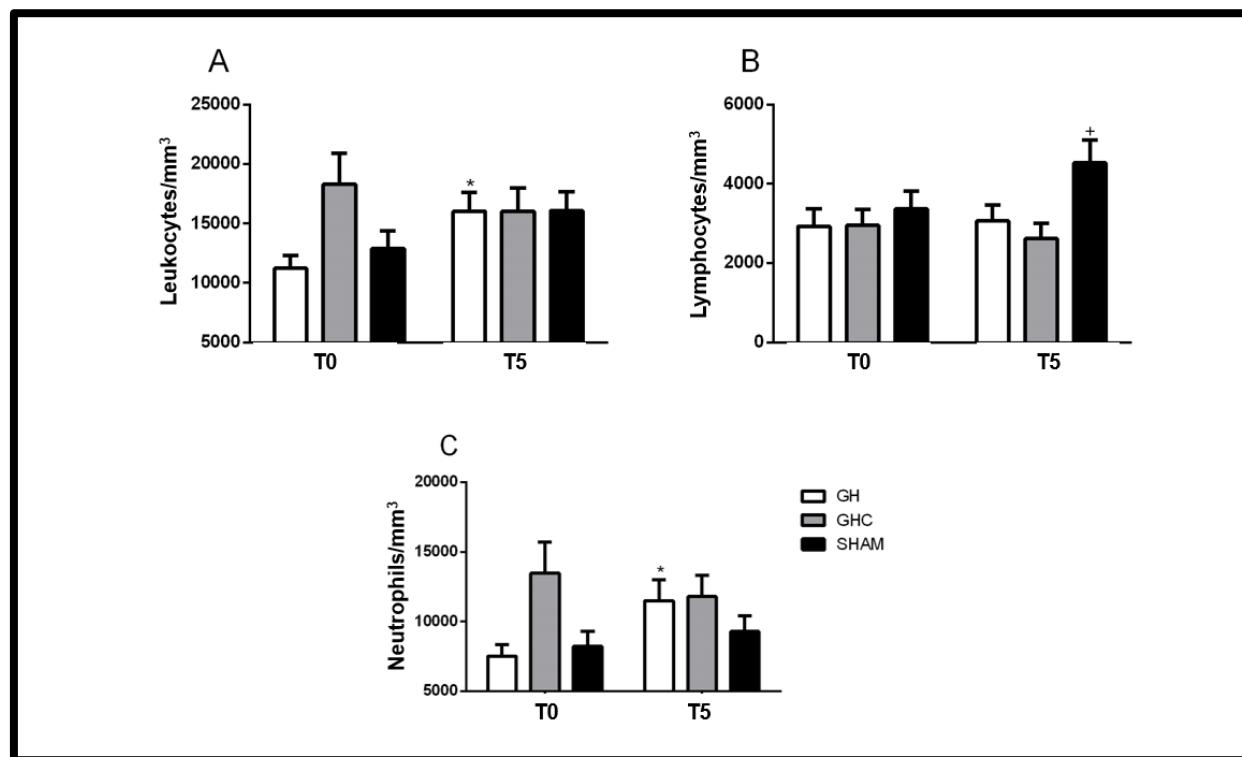


Figure 2. Average values of Leukocytes (A), Lymphocytes (B) and Neutrophils (C) in the GH, GHC and SHAM groups at times T0 and T5. GH = hyperbaric group; SHAM = Sham group; GHC = hyperbaric control group; Time 0 = before HBOT for groups GH and GHC and before OVH for GS; Time 5 = 72h post-extubation

136 The pCO₂ values were higher at times T1 ($p = 0.014$) and T3 ($p = 0.0026$)
 137 for GH than for GHC for the same times. The values were also higher in T1 ($p =$
 138 0.0013) and T3 ($p = 0.0026$) in the SHAM group in comparison to GHC. The pCO₂

139 followed these results, so that the values of T1 ($p = 0.02$) and T3 ($p = 0.008$) in
140 GH were higher than those in GHC and T1 ($p = 0.05$) and T3 ($p = 0.059$) in SHAM
141 were greater than that in GHC. In addition, it showed a significant increase
142 between T1 and T3 in GH ($p = 0.04$).

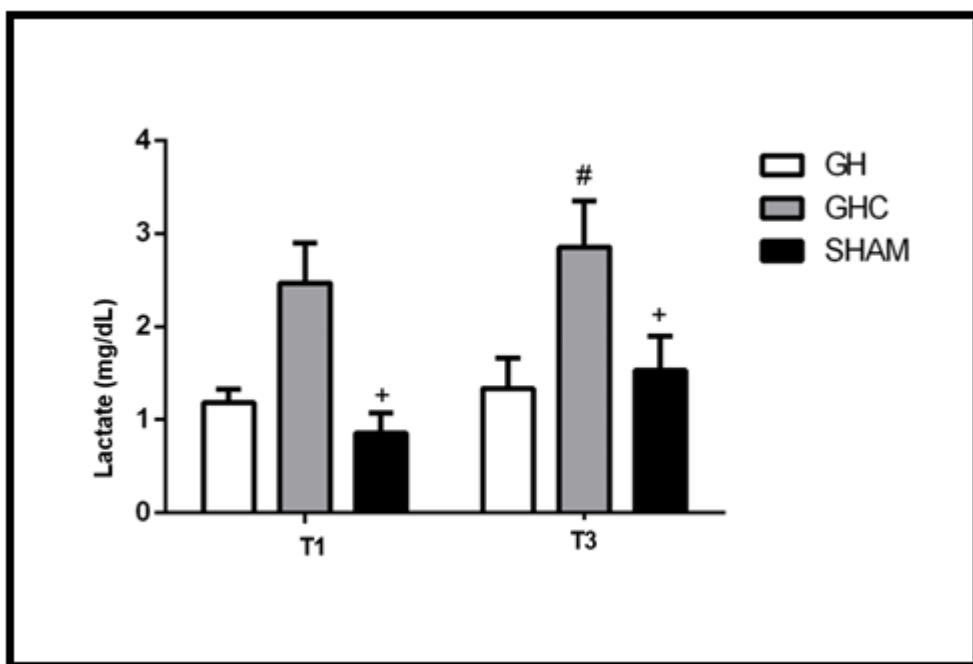


Figure 3. Average lactate values in groups GH, GHC and SHAM at times T1 and T3. * Different from the 1st time ($p <0.05$); + Different from the SHAM group in the same time period ($p <0.05$) GH = hyperbaric group; SHAM = Sham group; GHC = hyperbaric control group; Time 1 = after MPA; Time 3 = after extubation

Table 4. Comparison of lactate and venous blood gas variables between collection times

	GH		GS		GHC	
Parameter	Time 1	Time 3	Time 1	Time 3	Time 1	Time 3
Lactate	1,18±0,14	1,33±0,32	0,85±0,21	1,53±0,36	2,46±0,42 ⁺	2,85±0,49 ^{#+}
pH	7,22±0,01	7,16±0,01*	7,22±0,01	7,18±0,02	7,25±0,01	7,25±0,01 ^{#+}
CO ₂	47,95±1,25	53,38±3,2*	47,47±2,07	50,83±2,00	40,59±1,63 ^{#+}	44,16±1,07 ^{#+}
pO ₂	64,94±5,61	67,87±5,22	70,62±8,78	62,48±4,09	42,63±1,77 ^{#+}	38,92±1,26 ^{#+}
Base	-5,73±0,47	-6,53±0,45	-6,15±0,45	-6,65±0,69	-6,30±0,68	-5,41±0,44

* Different from the 1st time ($p <0.05$); + Different from the GS group in the same time period ($p <0.05$)

GH = hyperbaric group; SHAM = Sham group; GHC = hyperbaric control group; Time 1 = after pre-medication; Time 3 = after extubation

143 Discussion

144 The present study brought relevant data to help understand the
 145 physiological effects of HBOT on peripheral perfusion markers, blood gas
 146 analysis and blood count in cats. The tolerability of patients to pretreatment was
 147 high, with no signs of adverse effects to the therapy over the time and pressure
 148 applied. The safety of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for dogs and cats has been
 149 previously tested in other studies^{2,3}, that also did not observe any damages
 150 resulting from the therapy.

151 There was no interference of the presence or absence of HBOT in the
152 values of base excess between the groups and times evaluated, suggesting that
153 there are no benefits or harms in the therapy when considering this variable.
154 Gautier et al⁸ evaluated the effects of HBOT in bitches submitted to OHE and it
155 did not induce any detectable response.

156 Blood gas analysis can be performed using arterial or venous blood
157 samples. They can be used to assess metabolic or electrolyte disorders, in
158 addition to providing information on the patient's ventilatory status⁹. In cats,
159 venous pH is considerably lower than arterial pH, whereas venous pCO₂ is higher
160 than arterial pCO₂, leading to an increase in bicarbonate concentration, but
161 without significant changes in base excess¹⁰.

162 Venous blood samples are easier to collect, cause less discomfort to the
163 patient and can be collected repeatedly with less possibility of thrombosis
164 resulting from the puncture¹¹. In feline patients, venous sampling is
165 recommended whenever possible, especially in non-anesthetized animals, due
166 to the stress caused by arterial puncture and the risk of thromboembolic accidents
167 with sequential punctures. Due to the need for repeated collections and given the
168 cat friendly character of the project, it was decided to use venous blood samples
169 for the measurement of blood gases.

170 Bachmann et al¹² stresses in their studies the need to relate clinical
171 findings to blood gas analysis results because the results referring to pO₂, pCO₂,
172 base excess and pH may suffer interference when not collected in syringes
173 suitable for gas analysis. Tamura et al¹⁰ reports significant differences between
174 the results of central and peripheral venous blood gas analysis, although
175 Bachmann¹² shows that peripheral collection can be reliable when considering
176 the patient's general condition and perfusion, in addition to generating less
177 discomfort.

178 The results obtained in the present study demonstrate values of pO₂ in the
179 GH group (pre-treatment combined with the surgical procedure) higher than
180 those in the GHC group (presence of pre-treatment in a hyperbaric chamber
181 without interference from the surgical procedure) both in Time 1 of collection
182 (after pre-medication) and in Time 3 (after extubation). In addition, it shows GHC
183 values significantly lower than those in the SHAM group for both times.

184 The groups submitted to the surgical procedure were maintained during
185 the entire anesthetic period under 100% oxygen vaporization, which could have
186 a positive impact on the result of the measurement of pO₂ in these groups, more
187 than the presence or absence of HBOT prior to collection. The pO₂ of the GH and
188 SHAM groups remained above the reference range established by Bachmann et

189 al¹² (33,9–56,3 mmHg), whereas the values in the GHC group remained within
190 this range.

191 The pCO₂ varied between groups hence following the variation in pO₂, in
192 which both the collection times in the GH and SHAM groups obtained higher
193 values of partial pressure of carbon dioxide than those in the GHC group. The
194 variation in the pCO₂ values between the groups followed the pH variation, so
195 that in the groups and times when the pCO₂ was higher, the pH was lower, going
196 according to what was described by Gonzalez et al⁹. However, the presence of
197 hypercapnia in this case was not accompanied by respiratory acidosis, as there
198 was no change in lactate levels and base excess when considering physiological
199 reference intervals.

200 Venous blood gas analysis, however, can be an unreliable method for
201 assessing oxygenation, which reduces the reliability of these results¹³. The other
202 variables analyzed from peripheral venous samples may be affected by changes
203 in circulation and metabolism, and these factors must be taken into account when
204 interpreting the results.¹³.

205 Lactate is a by-product of anaerobic metabolism, and is a useful biomarker
206 for the diagnosis and prognosis of shock in human and veterinary medicine, as it
207 reflects an imbalance in the amount of oxygen demanded by the tissue and the

208 amount received by it. It is a safe parameter for assessing tissue perfusion in
209 cats, as corroborated by Redavid¹⁴, who demonstrated that there was no
210 correlation between collection stress and the presence of hyperlactatemia in
211 healthy cats.

212 Lactate values have a large reference range for cats. A study by Tynan¹⁵
213 refers to values of 0.67-5.44 mmol/l, while Bachmann's¹² work brings a range of
214 0.61–5.86 mmol/l. It is suggested that this variation is due to several factors such
215 as stress, collection method, sample management and studied population¹⁴. In
216 our study, only healthy cats were admitted, and the lactate values for all patients
217 were within the known reference ranges, despite their oscillation between groups.
218 As for the collection method, samples from the jugular and lateral saphenous vein
219 show equivalent results for lactatemia levels¹⁴.

220 The lactate values varied inversely proportional to pO₂ values,
221 corroborating data from other studies^{9,10,12}. The average of the values in both
222 collection times for the GHC group was higher than that of the SHAM group. In
223 addition, the T3 values in the GHC group were higher than those in the GH group.
224 There was no significant change in base excess values, which is in line with the
225 findings by Kohen et al¹⁶, which states that hyperlactatemia may be present in
226 patients without metabolic changes in the acid-base state.

227 There are several mechanisms that can lead to the development of
228 hyperlactatemia. The most common is through anaerobic metabolism, leading to
229 concomitant metabolic acidosis. Another cause involves the occurrence of
230 respiratory alkalosis and subsequent compensatory hyperlactatemia in order to
231 achieve metabolic homeostasis¹⁶.

232 Due to the high intake and oxygen consumption and the consequent
233 decrease in carbon dioxide in the chamber during the hyperbaric oxygen therapy
234 session, this may be a cause related to the increase in lactate in the HBOT control
235 group, since this may be a compensatory response⁹ to the assumed respiratory
236 alkalosis. This hypothesis is based on the fact that there is an increase in lactate
237 levels concomitantly with the moments of pCO₂ decrease and pH increase in the
238 groups.

239 There are other mechanisms of hyperlactatemia not associated with the
240 patient's acid-base status. Among these are cellular energy metabolism
241 stimulated by catecholamines or pro-inflammatory cytokines¹⁷. Gautier et al⁸
242 demonstrated that there is no interference of HBOT in the systemic inflammatory
243 response in bitches, however there is no data on its effect in cats, and its influence
244 on these variables cannot be ruled out.

245 In our study, the pH showed a significant drop from the initial to the final
246 collection time in the GH group, inversely proportional to the increase in pCO₂ in
247 the same interval. The drop in pH in cats may be related to the stress generated
248 by the collection, the hypoperfusion generated by vasoconstriction due to
249 anesthetic drugs and other behavioral and metabolic factors^{14,17}. The values for
250 T3 in the GHC group are higher than those in the SHAM and GH group for this
251 same interval, suggesting that the effect of hyperoxygenation in the chamber
252 without the influence of surgical stress has influenced this increase.

253 The blood count consists of a diagnostic exam for patients with some
254 clinicopathological condition, as well as part of the routine inspection of healthy
255 individuals¹⁸. The effects of HBOT on feline hematological patterns have not yet
256 been reported. In our study, the values of hematocrit ($p = 0.018$), hemoglobin (p
257 = 0.01) and red blood cells ($p = 0.0018$) showed a substantial drop between Time
258 0 and Time 5 of collections in GH, in which the patients were submitted to
259 pretreatment in a hyperbaric chamber followed by a video-assisted surgical
260 procedure.

261 A study carried out in humans by Sinan et al¹⁹ demonstrated a significant
262 decrease in hematocrit and red blood cell count after 20 sessions of HBOT in
263 patients with various conditions. These findings are in line with a study that

264 demonstrated similar results after 21 days²⁰. Such results can be considered
265 expected in view of the effects of hyperoxygenation on the erythropoiesis process
266 due to the reduction in erythropoietin production by a negative feedback
267 process²¹.

268 This hypothesis could justify the decrease in hematological values in the
269 GH group, in association with the effect of the surgical procedure. Teixeira et al²²
270 showed that a group of cats submitted to OHE did not present significant changes
271 in hematocrit at 2, 3, 5, and 10 days after the operation, which would demonstrate
272 that the surgical procedure would not have any influence on these parameters.

273 Nonetheless, Gunes e Aktas¹⁸ conducted a study in which human patients
274 underwent more than 60 sessions of HBOT, and there was no significant change
275 in the values of red blood cells, hemoglobin and hematocrit in any of the groups
276 evaluated. It was then suggested that HBOT has no relevant role in altering
277 hematological patterns. Gautier et al⁸ in a study with bitches submitted to HBOT
278 and elective ovariohysterectomy stated that there was no influence of hyperbaric
279 therapy on the hemolysis patterns of the studied population.

280 The total leukocyte count showed a significant increase from T0 to T5 in
281 GH, as well as the neutrophil count. Lymphocytes, on the other hand, had a lower
282 value in GHC T5 than when compared to T5 in the SHAM group. HBOT increases

283 neutrophil activation through increasing its oxidative capacity by creating reactive
284 oxygen species²³, what added to the physiological challenge created by the
285 surgical procedure could lead to greater expression of these cells in the GH
286 group. Furthermore, oxygen therapy leads to apoptosis of peripheral
287 lymphocytes, contributing to the decrease in cell count²⁴.

288 The experience of undergoing HBOT can be a stress trigger for cats. This
289 can lead to an increase in serum cortisol levels, which leads to the redistribution
290 of blood lymphocytes to the interstitium and increases the number of circulating
291 neutrophils²⁵, a fact that may be related to the increase in neutrophils in the GH
292 group and the decrease in lymphocytes in the GHC group when compared to the
293 SHAM group. The tests also showed the constant presence of hypersegmented
294 neutrophils, which corroborates this theory.

295 Our results are based on a single HBOT session in a sample of 42 cats.
296 As this is a population originating from the hospital routine, the perfect
297 standardization of the research subjects is not possible. For these reasons,
298 further investigation is warranted.

299 For the first time, the influence of HBOT on the blood count, lactatemia
300 and venous blood gas analysis of healthy cats is reported, following a scientific

301 method, however more studies are needed in order to complement the reported
302 data and evaluate its real applicability in the clinical routine.

303 **Conclusions**

304 The data obtained through this study demonstrate that there is no
305 significant influence of pre-treatment with HBOT on parameters such as base
306 excess in healthy cats. An increase in serum lactate levels and a reduction in pH
307 values can be expected after hyperbaric therapy,. However, lactate levels
308 remained within the reference values, which corroborates the safety of the
309 procedure.

310 Hyperbaric therapy can contribute to an increase in pO₂ and pCO₂, making
311 it important to assess the patient's ventilatory capacity prior to therapy. Findings
312 of leukocytosis due to neutrophilia and lymphopenia can be expected after the
313 session. In addition, it is possible that there is a significant reduction in the values
314 of hematocrit, hemoglobin and red blood cell count.

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319 **Conflict of interest**

320 The authors declare that there are no potential conflicts of interest
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5. CONCLUSÃO

Os dados obtidos através da realização dessa dissertação demonstram que:

- Pode-se esperar aumento dos níveis séricos de lactato e redução dos valores de pH após a terapia hiperbárica;
- A terapia hiperbárica pode contribuir com o aumento da pO₂ bem como da pCO₂, sendo importante a avaliação da capacidade ventilatória do paciente previamente à terapia;
- Achados de leucocitose por neutrofilia e linfopenia podem ser esperados em pacientes após a sessão;
- É possível que haja redução significativa nos valores de hematócrito, hemoglobina e contagem de hemácias. Isso demonstra a importância da realização de hemograma de controle anterior à terapia hiperbárica.

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