

HBOT Testimony from Wife of a Disabled Army Veteran

Living with someone who had a traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, let alone being married to this person, has been an unbearable experience. My husband, an Army sergeant, lost both legs above the knees and severely disabled his right hand in November 2006 in Baghdad when his humvee went over an IED. I thought these were the worse injuries; however, I found out that the mental wounds were far worse than the physical ones. I tried everything I could to make my husband happy and healthy yet there was nothing I could do until his brain was healed. He wasn't sleeping through the night, which meant I wasn't sleeping through the night, which meant when the kids woke us both up at 7:00 a.m., the whole house was on edge. I would try to discuss things with my husband, but most of the time he just didn't have the capacity to be rational. He would also make irrational decisions such as inviting troubled veterans to live in our house, without asking me, or considering the effects they would have on our children. He became anti-social even avoiding his own family. He would rather ignore a problem than find a solution. He was always restless, wanting to go different places, and would have a new, often unproductive, hobby every day. And he would blow up over the most insignificant situations. Something had to be done but I didn't know what. Medications only made my husband less himself. Then we heard about the Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatments (HBOT) and Dr. Zant offered his services free of charge, a lucky break for us. Before starting treatments, my husband was tested on his cognitive skills, and his scores came out poorly, which didn't surprise me. He began treatments and we both saw his mental improvements. By the end of the first round of treatments, his mentality had greatly changed and he was much more relaxed and satisfied with life in general. His test scores attested to his improvements, with most categories of his cognitive functioning moving up. Since his test scores still had some room for improvement, he did an extra set of 40 treatments and is finishing them up now. He took a mid-point test and every area except one was in the normal or above normal range. Now we are finally able to work on our struggling marriage in a rational way, something we didn't even have a chance to do with his wounded mentality. I am eternally grateful to Dr. Zant, who provided these services; however, I am disappointed that so many of our veteran friends need this same treatment and are unable to receive it while their whole worlds are falling apart. I don't understand why more isn't being done to get all mentally wounded veterans this incredible healing treatment. I firmly believe that suicides and divorce rates among disabled veterans will go down once HBOT treatments are freely offered to these heroes.