

Ultrafilter handles the hyperbaric pressure

The Ultrafilter component of Donaldson Australasia Pty Ltd's has provided a critical purifying process in an emerging sector of holistic medicine.

Located at Brisbane's Wesley Hospital, The Wesley Centre for Hyperbaric Medicine has been installed with two Ultrafilter ALG 80S breathing air units, an oil water separator and 'zero loss' auto draining, to ensure patients receiving hyperbaric oxygen therapy in high pressure hyperbaric chambers receive oxygen exactly as prescribed.

Used predominantly for people with diabetic ulcers and those recuperating from radiation treatment (such as throat cancer patients), the hyperbaric chambers rely on Ultrafilter equipment to supply dry, breathable air rated at 2.14 atmospheres (equivalent to a depth of 14m in sea water).

Oxygen delivered in the high pressure chamber improves circulation and wound healing by correcting the hypoxic or low oxygen state often associated with these types of wounds.

Nurses perform wound care, administer appropriate medications, and do pre-treatment checks before they enter the chamber. Patients wear a hood over their heads and the oxygen is delivered to, and exhausted from, the hood through different pipes.

According to the facility's Hyperbaric Technician Mr Dale O'Halloran, Ultrafilter has to ensure correct running conditions and a high level of maintenance.

"Ultrafilter product filters the air. We have wet screw compressors

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pumping air into the Ultrafilter units which, in turn, send through the clean air via pressure control.

"The Australian Standard relating to hyperbaric facilities requires air checks to be performed every six months. Ultrafilter performs this test every 3 months to ensure the highest quality.

"We don't even have to take any by-product or contaminated waste product (such as water) away. Ultrafilter comes around every three

months to service the equipment allowing us to get on with other tasks," said Mr O'Halloran.

As a further safeguard to product performance, Ultrafilter is asked to annually validate its own testing equipment and procedures against those of BOC Pty Ltd, effectively qualifying as a once yearly Quality Assurance Test.

"Because our service often deals with life and death situations it is reassuring to know that Ultrafilter gives us an emergency response whenever we require one," said Mr O'Halloran.

