

## From UPTD to ESOT. Monitoring pulmonary oxygen toxicity in surface-oriented diving

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## Why care?

Classic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

HSE

Medical examination and assessment of working divers (MA1)

Veileder til Forskrift om helsekrav for personer i arbeid på innsretninger i petroleumvirksomheten til havs (inkludert helsekrav for yrkesdykkere)

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### Relevance – when should calculation of POT be considered?

Presumed adherence to IMCA/HSE/NORSOK U-100:2015

Breathing gas bottom	In-water decompression	SurD	TUP	Saturation
Air	Green	Green	Green	Green
Nitrox	Yellow	Red	Red	Green
Heliox	Green	Green	Green	Green

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## Clark and Lambertsen 1970

REPORT: PULMONARY OXYGEN TOLERANCE IN MAN AND DERIVATION OF PULMONARY OXYGEN TOLERANCE CURVES

AUTHORS: JM Clark, CJ Lambertsen

REPORT DATE: January-1970

REPORT NUMBER: 9161-1970

REPORT SOURCE AND PUBLISHER: Environmental Biomedical Stress Data Center (EBSDC), Institute for Environmental Medicine (IEM), University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, 3701 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6200, USA

Marshall&Lambertsen, J Appl Physiol 1961

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## Clark and Lambertsen 1970

FIGURE 16: DOSE-RESPONSE CURVES FOR PULMONARY OXYGEN TOXICITY IN NORMAL MEN BASED UPON 2% DECREASE IN VITAL CAPACITY

FIGURE 15: RATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF SYMPTOMS AND DECREASE IN VITAL CAPACITY DURING PROLONGED O<sub>2</sub> BREATHING AT 2.0 ATM

$pO_2=0.83$  Atm (N=6)  
 $pO_2=0.98$  Atm (N=4)  
 $pO_2=2.0$  Atm (N=11)

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## Clark and Lambertsen 1970

FIGURE 18: PULMONARY OXYGEN TOLERANCE CURVES IN NORMAL MEN (BASED ON VITAL CAPACITY CHANGES IN 50% OF THE SUBJECTS)

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### Bardin & Lambertsen 1970 UPTD – Later OTU

A Quantitative Method for Calculating Cumulative Pulmonary Oxygen Toxicity Use of the Unit Pulmonary Toxicity Dose (UPTD)

H. Bardin and C.J. Lambertsen  
Institute for Environmental Medicine  
University of Pennsylvania  
April, 1970

$$UPTD = t \times \sqrt[1.2]{\frac{0.5}{p - 0.5}}$$

$$\Delta VC(\%) = -0.01 * (UPTD - 415)$$

UPTD	Corresponding ΔVC in 50% of subjects
415	-2
825	-4
1035	-6
1230	-8
1425	-10
1815	-15
2190	-20

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### Hamilton et al. 1988 (Repex)

NATIONAL UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM Technical Report 88-1A  
REPEX: Development of Repetitive Excursions, Surfacing Techniques, and Oxygen Procedures for Habitat Diving

Duration (Days)	Average daily exposure (UPTD)	Accumulated period exposure (EPTD)
1	850	850
2	700	1400
3	620	1960
4	525	2100
5	460	2300
6	420	2520
7	385	2660
8	350	2800
9	330	2970
10	310	3100
11	300	3300

*We did not invent this information. The information was developed by others it came from experience with oxygen exposure and was the best that we could find. Our only contribution is to fit it together to show how the daily dose can be determined as a function of mission duration.*

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### 1980-2022

Other measures of POT

- D<sub>LCO</sub>
- Exhaled
  - NO
  - VOC

Longitudinal and cross-sectional epidemiological studies

Oxygen, the lung and the diver: friends and foes?  
Peter-Jan A.M. van Duyn<sup>1</sup>, Peter J. Stek<sup>1</sup> and Robert A. van Hulst<sup>1</sup>

Analysis of Volatile Organic Compounds in Exhaled Breath Following a COMEX® Treatment Table

Members of Pulmonary Oxygen Toxicity in Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Using Inhaled Breath Analysis

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UNDERSEA & HYPERBARIC MEDICINE

#### Hyperoxic exposure monitoring in diving: A farewell to the UPTD

Abstract: Monitoring hyperoxic exposure in diving is essential to the UPTD. Undersea Hyperbaric Medicine (UHM) has been a leading force in the development of hyperbaric medicine, but the development of hyperbaric medicine has been limited by the lack of a quantitative measure of hyperoxic exposure. The unit pulmonary toxicity dose (UPTD) has been established as the most common exposure index for POT in diving. UPTD is calculated based on the pO<sub>2</sub> and exposure time. A literature search identified the results of diving pO<sub>2</sub> and exposure time. The results of the search are presented in this paper. The results of the search are presented in this paper. The results of the search are presented in this paper.

UNDERSEA & HYPERBARIC MEDICINE

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### ESOT

- Equivalent Surface Oxygen Time (min)
- 1 ESOT = The hyperoxic exposure reached after breathing pO<sub>2</sub>=1 Atm for 1 min.
  - Conceptually similar to UPTD/OUT
  - 60 ESOT
    - Exposure for pO<sub>2</sub>=1 Atm for 60 min (1h)
    - Exposure for pO<sub>2</sub>=1.4 Atm for 31 min

$$ESOT = t \times pO_2^{2.285} \quad pO_2: \text{Atm}$$

t: min

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### Summary – exposure limit

ESOT after dive	Maximum number of successive days of diving	Minimum surface interval (h)
>660	1	24
501-660	2	12
420-500	5	12
<420	10	12

Minimum surface interval: The time required in normoxia or air diving only to ignore/zero ESOT from the preceding exposure

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**UNDENSEA & HYPERBARIC MEDICINE**

**Hyperoxic exposure monitoring in diving: A farewell to the UPTD**

Jan Ribberg, PhD, MD<sup>1</sup> / Peter-Jan van Oost, PhD, MD<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>St. Antonius Hospital / <sup>2</sup>Erasmus Medical Center, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
 CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: Jan.Ribberg - j.ribo@erasmusmc.nl

**ABSTRACT**  
 Ribberg J, van Oost PJ. Hyperoxic exposure monitoring in diving: A farewell to the UPTD. *Undensea Report*. 2023 Fourth Quarter; 4(4): 395-413.  
 Depending on pO<sub>2</sub> and exposure time (hours), breathing gas may cause injury to many organs including the lung. Pulmonary oxygen toxicity (POT) may be asymptomatic, but will certainly present as a chronic bronchitis in asymptomatic cases. In a number of divergent measurements of POT, both have been investigated, but the development in vital capacity (VC) has remained the most accepted outcome measure. The well-known problem with using UPTD has been established as the most common exposure index for POT in diving. UPTD is calculated based on the pO<sub>2</sub> and exposure time. A literature search identified five models predicting POT that have not used a constant pO<sub>2</sub> change for the full range of pO<sub>2</sub>, variation and exposure time relevant for surface-oriented diving. Nevertheless, compared to UPTD, the formula (pO<sub>2</sub><sup>1.5</sup> × t)<sup>0.5</sup>, where t is time (hours) and pO<sub>2</sub> is inspired pO<sub>2</sub>, seems to be a better predictor for POT. >100% and allowed estimation of recovery. The requirement that the work to be done should reduce UPTD to 0.5 (50% of the original value) for all surface-oriented diving, based on the limited data available, we suggest a daily threshold of < 1.0 for a maximum of two days after followed by two days of recovery. For the appropriate days of diving, we recommend that the threshold should not exceed 0.5, and the recovery days should be allowed for multiday diving without days of recovery, the daily exposure should possibly be limited to < 0.45 h. **KEYWORDS:** diving, oxygen, pulmonary function, pulmonary oxygen toxicity, UPTD




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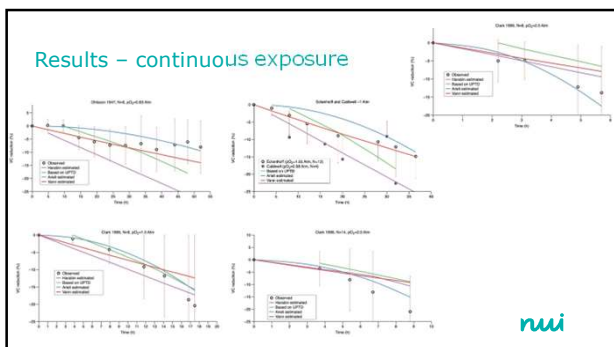
### Summary of indices reviewed

Index	Originally proposed	Exposures included	pO <sub>2</sub> range (kPa)	Relationship between pO <sub>2</sub> and time vs VC change	Outcome measure	Recovery function	Comment
UPTD	Bardin and Lambertsen 1970 [4]	21	84-203	(Rectangular hyperbola)	(VC)		Relationship between pO <sub>2</sub> and time expressed as UPTD (rectangular hyperbola). Relationship between UPTD and VC was not mathematically expressed but tabulated.
Unnamed	Harabih 1985 [22]	440	25-203	Linear	VC		
Repex	Hamilton et al. [24]				(VC)	+	The Repex report holds recommendations for limiting UPTD's for multiday exposure, i.e. inherent expectations of POT recovery
FR(1)-VC(2) ERIC(3)C(2)	Vann 1988 [7]	794	25-203	Exponential	VC	+	
Arieli K	Arieli et al. 2002 [8]	56	106-304	Exposure: Power Recovery: Exponential	VC	+	
ROT	Shytkoff 2015 [5]	1352	130-140	Exposure: Exponential Recovery: Sigmoidal	FVC, FEV <sub>1</sub> , FEV <sub>2.5-75</sub> or pulmonary symptoms	+	POT expressed as a likelihood function.

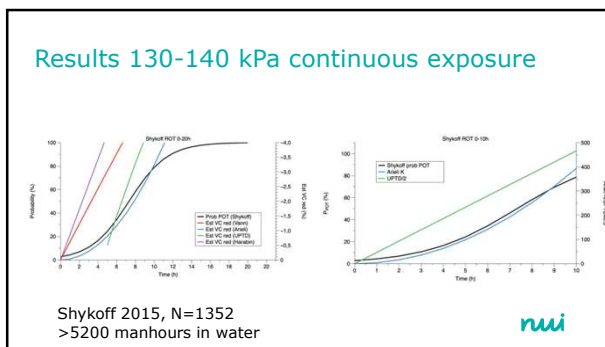
Ribberg and Van Oost, UHM 2022; 4(4): 395-413



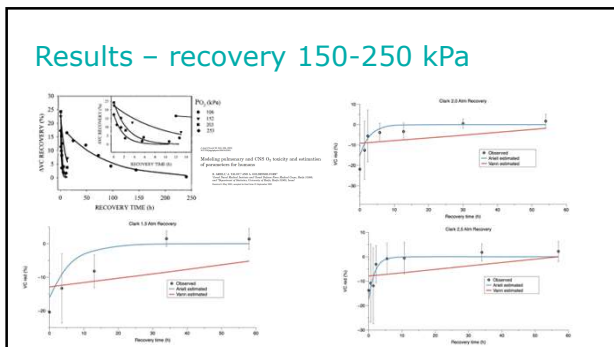
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### Our conclusions

Exposure	pO <sub>2</sub> (kPa)	Time (h)	Time:VC relationship	Estimate precision	
				UPTD	K
Continuous	<100	<5h	0	-	-
Continuous	<100	>>5h	Lin	↑	↓
Continuous	130-140	0-10 h	Exp*	↑	-
Continuous	150	0-10 h	Exp	-	-
Continuous	200-250	0-5 h	Exp	↓	-
Intermittent	200	0-4 h	0	↑	↑
Recovery	150-250	0-24h	Sigm or Exp	-	-


Model	Cont. Exp.		Cont. + Intermitt. Exp.	
	E	E+R	E	E+R
UPTD (4)	35 %		32 %	
Proportional (7)	35 %	33 %	33 %	33 %
Proportional healing (7)	75 %	60 %	71 %	56 %
Power (3)	66 %	61 %	25 %	53 %

Ribberg and Van Oost, UHM 2022; 4(4): 395-413



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Navy Expeditionary Diving Unit

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### Arieli K and ESOT – the difference

$$ESOT = 60 \times \sqrt{K}$$

$$K = t^2 \times pO_2^{4.57} \quad \begin{matrix} pO_2: \text{Atm} \\ t: \text{h} \end{matrix}$$

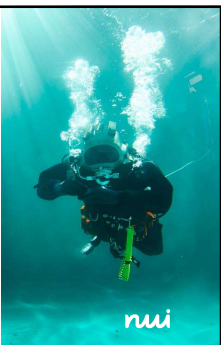
$$ESOT = t \times pO_2^{2.285} \quad \begin{matrix} pO_2: \text{Atm} \\ t: \text{min} \end{matrix}$$

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### ESOT

- Equivalent Surface Oxygen Time
- 1 ESOT = The hyperoxic exposure reached after breathing  $pO_2=1$  Atm for 1 min.
  - Conceptually similar to UPTD/OTU



$$ESOT = t \times pO_2^{2.285} \quad \begin{matrix} pO_2: \text{Atm} \\ t: \text{min} \end{matrix}$$

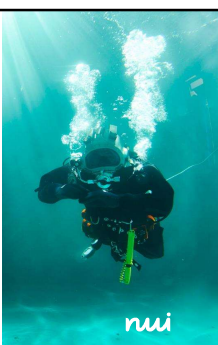
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### Summary – exposure limit

ESOT after dive	Maximum number of successive days of diving	Minimum surface interval (h)
>660	1	24
501-660	2	12
420-500	5	12
<420	10	12

Minimum surface interval: The time required in normoxia or air diving only to ignore/zero ESOT from the preceding exposure



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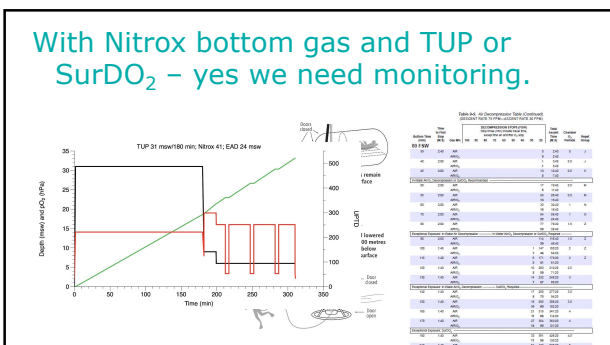
### Do we need hyperoxic monitoring in surface-oriented (non-sat) diving?

	BG: Air DC: IW air	BG: Air DC: SurDO <sub>2</sub>	BG: Air DC: TUP Air/O <sub>2</sub>
Profile (msw/min)	27/60	15/180	24/180
UPTD	36	143	312
# consecutive diving days (Repx)	>10	>10	10

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### With Nitrox bottom gas and TUP or SurDO<sub>2</sub> – yes we need monitoring.



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### Nitrox + TUP or SurDO<sub>2</sub> calls for hyperoxic monitoring

	BG: Air DC: IW air	BG: Nitrox DC: IW nitrox	BG: Air/DC: SurDO <sub>2</sub>	BG: Nitrox DC: SurDO <sub>2</sub>	BG: Air DC: TUP Air/O <sub>2</sub>	BG: Nitrox DC: TUP Air/O <sub>2</sub>
Profile (msw/min)	27/60	12/240	15/180	12/240	24/180	24/180
UPTD	36	463	143	476	312	517
# consecutive diving days (Repx)	>10	5	>10	4	10	4

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### Calculation of multi-pO<sub>2</sub> segmented dives

- A dive with these segments
  - 180 min with pO<sub>2</sub>=1.3
  - 17 min with pO<sub>2</sub>=1.9 Atm
  - 96 min with pO<sub>2</sub>=1.6 Atm
- Calculus
  - 180 min 1.3 Atm
    - 328
  - 17 min 1.9 atm
    - 65
  - 96 min 1.6 Atm
    - 303
- Total
  - 696 (328+65+303)

pO <sub>2</sub> (Atm)	k	15	30	60	90	120	150	180	240
0.5	0.21	3	6	12	18	25	31	37	49
0.6	0.31	5	9	19	28	37	47	56	75
0.7	0.44	7	13	27	40	53	66	80	106
0.8	0.60	9	18	36	54	72	90	108	144
0.9	0.79	12	24	47	71	94	118	141	189
1	1.00	15	30	60	90	120	150	180	240
1.1	1.24	19	37	75	112	149	186	224	298
1.2	1.52	23	46	91	137	182	228	273	364
1.3	1.82	27	55	109	164	219	273	328	437
1.4	2.16	32	65	129	194	259	324	388	518
1.5	2.53	38	76	152	227	303	379	455	606
1.6	2.93	44	88	176	262	351	439	527	702
1.9	4.33	65	130	260	390	520	650	780	1040
2.2	6.06	91	182	364	545	727	909	1091	1454
2.5	8.12	122	243	487	730	974	1217	1461	1948

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### To calculate it exactly

- Segments
  - 180 min 1.3 Atm
    - 180 x 1.82 = 328
  - 17 min 1.9 atm
    - 17 x 4.33 = 74
  - 96 min 1.6 Atm
    - 96 x 2.93 = 281
- Total
  - 683 (328+74+281)

pO <sub>2</sub> (Atm)	k
0.5	0.21
0.6	0.31
0.7	0.44
0.8	0.60
0.9	0.79
1	1.00
1.1	1.24
1.2	1.52
1.3	1.82
1.4	2.16
1.5	2.53
1.6	2.93
1.9	4.33
2.2	6.06
2.5	8.12

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### A DMAC Guidance note for operational support

The Diving Medical Advisory Committee  
DMAC is a charitable organisation limited by guarantee. For more information visit [www.dmac-diving.org](http://www.dmac-diving.org) or email [info@dmac-diving.org](mailto:info@dmac-diving.org)


Exposure Index for Pulmonary Oxygen Toxicity in Surface-Oriented Diving  
(DMAC 01 - Jan 2011)

pO <sub>2</sub> (Atm)	k	Time (min)													
		15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	135	150				
0.5	0.21	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42
0.6	0.31	5	9	13	18	23	28	33	38	43	48	53	58	63	68
0.7	0.44	7	13	17	23	29	35	41	47	53	59	65	71	77	83
0.8	0.60	9	18	26	34	42	50	58	66	74	82	90	98	106	114
0.9	0.79	12	24	36	47	58	69	80	91	102	113	124	135	146	157
1	1.00	15	30	45	60	75	90	105	120	135	150	165	180	195	210
1.1	1.24	19	37	55	73	91	109	127	145	163	181	199	217	235	253
1.2	1.52	23	46	69	91	114	137	160	182	205	227	250	273	296	319
1.3	1.82	27	55	83	111	139	167	195	223	251	279	307	335	363	391
1.4	2.16	32	65	97	129	161	194	226	258	290	322	354	386	418	450
1.5	2.53	38	76	114	152	190	227	265	303	341	379	417	455	493	531
1.6	2.93	44	88	132	176	220	264	308	352	396	440	484	528	572	616
1.9	4.33	65	130	195	260	325	390	455	520	585	650	715	780	845	910
2.2	6.06	91	182	273	364	455	545	636	727	818	909	1000	1091	1182	1273
2.5	8.12	122	243	364	487	610	730	850	970	1090	1210	1330	1450	1570	1690

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### Summary - part 1


- ESOT is a simple mathematical transformation of Arieli K
- ESOT respects the Arieli K relationship between pO<sub>2</sub> and time on AVC
- ESOT simplifies hyperoxic exposure monitoring compared to Arieli K
- Similar to UPTD
  - ESOT is a single dimension of time
  - ESOTs may be added for different pO<sub>2</sub> segments of a dive
  - ESOT express the POT of a 1 min exposure to pO<sub>2</sub>=1 Atm



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### The tricky part

#### Recovery and threshold limits



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### Which exposure limit?

Author	ESOT	Finding
Arieli 2019	937	ΔVC 12%
Shykoff 2015	937	P <sub>crit</sub> =5.7%
Shykoff 2018	715	POT 50% after one exposure (P <sub>crit</sub> 34%) "Well tolerated" for 5d, no accumulation <9d FEV1 0.16 %/d, 18d for 25% of divers to have significant spirometric change (P <sub>crit</sub> 16%)
Shykoff 2008	502	
Thorsen 1998	632-665	No PFT changes after 21-25 sessions
Pott 2019		
Ørnhaugen 1989	615	No PFT changes after seven days

- If 2 d recovery\*
  - 1-2 d exposure; ESOT=660
  - 5 d exposure; ESOT=500
  - 10 d exposure; ESOT=420

\*: "Recovery"=Normoxia or air dive only

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### The practical consequence

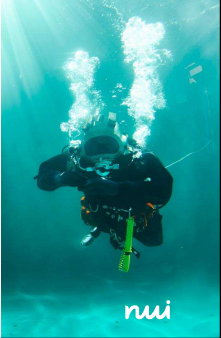
	BG: Air DC: 1W air	BG: Nitrox DC: 1W nitrox	BG: Air/DC: SurDO <sub>2</sub>	BG: Nitrox DC: SurDO <sub>2</sub>	BG: Air DC: TUP Air/O <sub>2</sub>	BG: Nitrox DC: TUP Air/O <sub>2</sub>
Profile (msw/min)	27/60	12/240	15/180	12/240	24/180	24/180
UPTD	36	463	143	476	312	517
# consecutive diving days (RepeX)	>10	4	>10	4	10	4
ESOT	33	582	344	719	436	739
# of consecutive diving days ESOT	No limit	2	10	Not recommended	5	Not recommended

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### Summary – part 2

- Extremely limited data on >5 successive days of hyperoxic exposure
- Exposure limits are heavily based on Shykoffs 130-140 kPa exposures
- Suggested limits are probably conservative due to
  - Divers are resting during decompression
  - Air breaks are provided during decompression
- Suggested threshold limits will mainly affect number of successive days with Nitrox as breathing gas with SurDO<sub>2</sub> and TUP decompression



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### Limitations and caveats

- Very limited data available on multiday exposures and in particular
  - Multiday exposure with low hyperoxic load
  - Recovery
- Arieli K/ESOT behaves unexpected for multiday exposures ranging 1.1 – 1.4 Atm

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