

A CASE SERIES OF DECOMPRESSION ILLNESS IN MISKITO FISHERMEN DIVERS
TREATED IN 2010 AT CLINICA LA BENDICIÓN.



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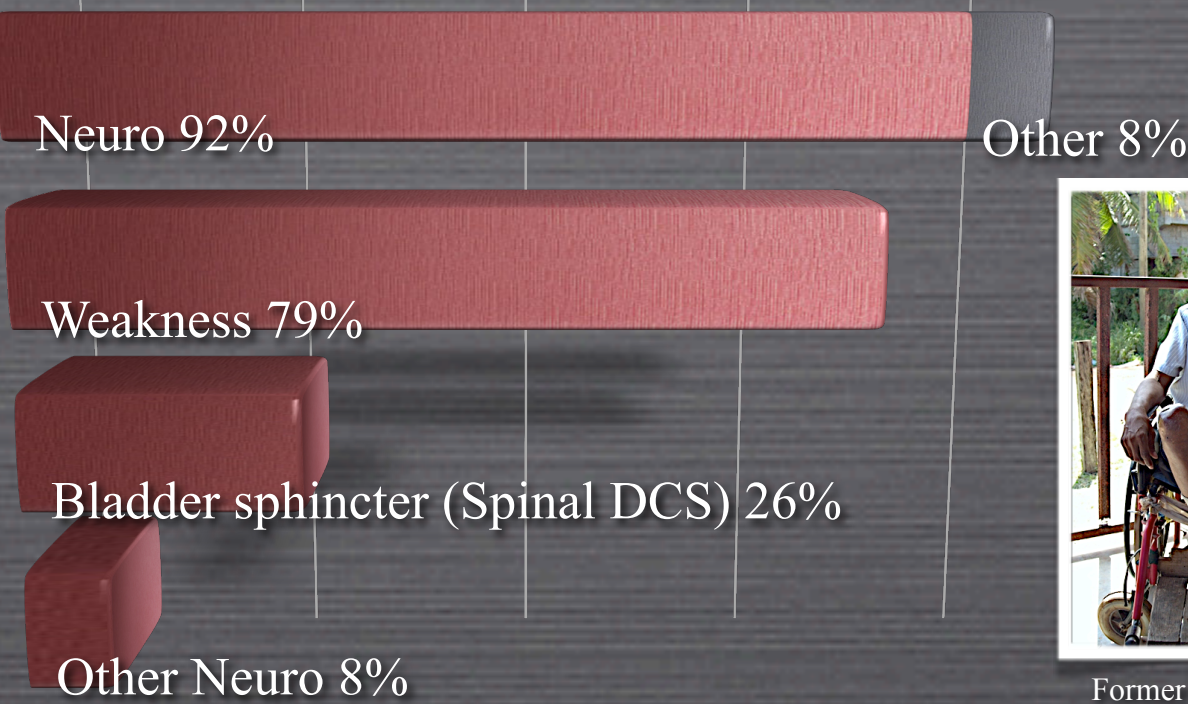
BACKGROUND: Miskito fishermen suffer high rates of decompression illness (DCI) while diving remotely from the nearest hyperbaric facility. Only divers with severe symptoms seek treatment. The purpose of this paper was to explore prognostic factors of outcomes in treated DCS cases.

RESULTS:

Number of divers	123 ♂
Number of DCI cases	128
Mean age (years)	33 (20-59)
Neurological presentation	118
Motor weakness	101
Legs	65
Arms and legs	32
Arms	4
Bladder sphincter involvement	33
In-water recompression	91
Median delay to treatment	5 (1-50) days
Improvement prior to admission	57
Gross functional recovery at discharge	103
- mean HBOT	3 treatments
Residual dysfunction despite treatment	19
- mean HBOT	12 treatments
No improvement	4
Deceased	2



Typical houses on a Miskito village.
La Moskitia, Gracias a Dios, Honduras.



Former Miskito diver.



Dive operation, recruitment of Miskito divers and closest recompression and medical facilities.

The only significant prognostic factor of gross functional recovery at discharge was the involvement of bladder sphincter, which increased the risk of residual symptoms (OR 19, 95% CI: 7-51).

CONCLUSIONS: Despite severe manifestations of DCS and long delays to standard recompression, most injured Miskito divers recovered significantly after standard HBOT. The duration of delay, the distribution of motor weakness and the natural evolution of symptoms before admission did not seem to affect the success of HBOT.

