

A visit to Kalymnos Vouvaleio Hospital – decompression chamber



The oldest profession of Kalymnian men

was the occupation of the diver. It was quite a difficult profession and caused many problems and many accidents, also deaths. First divers went down the water till 10-40 meters without clothes with “skadalopetra”. Then they



hadn't danger to ill by the divers' illness. When the dress of divers was discovered then the danger begun. The diver then hadn't the proper training, proper equipment and knowledge necessary to face what happened to them. So one of the most common illnesses was the disease of

divers. It was very common illness in divers and travel caused by excessive depth and consecutive dives.

The way they treated the old days this disease was to bury the patient in the sand, because they believed that the temperature of the sand made them good. Defeat but tragic for these buried in the sand men to see their people leaving them, take the boat and left them to die at the shore in those unknown islands. Inside lungs were full of “azoton” a gas which at deep water is more than outside the water. When the diver comes very quickly up, then lungs become weak. To find out if a diver had this illness men gave them a cigarette to see if azoton was at his blood. It’s called “sampaigh fenomenon”.



Today there is a **decompression chamber**. This machine brings the patient to the same

conditions as found in the water, in a hyperbaric environment, wh



ere the pressure will be greater than atmospheric pressure. In this way restored. The chamber is used not only for this case, but when one teenager suffered infections on the skin, can enter the chamber and re-infects.

The decompression chamber, which we visited in Vouvaleio Hospital of Kalymnos responsible for our newspaper teacher, Mrs. Panou, creates the same pressure that exists at the bottom, fifty or a hundred meters below the sea surface. The patient enters the chamber is in the same condition it was in at the bottom. In the chamber there are tubes which channel pure oxygen, wherein the patient is breathing at intervals. There are also cameras where the doctor and specialized in the decompression chamber nurses attending from outside the patient. Also in the chamber and the patient is accompanied by a nurse to check the patient's condition. If you need to



open the door of the chamber, the first equilibrated atmospheric air into the smaller space that exists before the decompression chamber and when the atmospheric pressure equals that which exists in the chamber then opens the door. To do well one diver "sickened" by the disease of divers need a week to a month to recover. Today accidents have declined too. Whatever happens, happens to the attention of divers from financial need or greed in wealth that meets the bottom. Today there are schools where divers care trainees to observe all safety regulations. There are still today sponge limited in number at risk for the needs of their families from the disease of divers. So it is fortunate that there Kalymnos this valuable machine. Here we give you some idea about the old one person's machine and the new new of twelve persons' machine. In Greece there are three machines of this kind.



We are grateful listen in a very excited way mrs Fotini Gerakiou, nurse in the decompression chamber.

By Stelios and Michael Lazaris, A2



John Mousellis, B2, taked the video. Enjoy it!

Accidents at decompressing: “Disease of divers”



Today with hyperbaric O₂ treated both hypoxia and edema caused by venous occlusion mikrofysalidiki fimbriae, and the same virulent bubbles of inert gas, by reducing the volume to assist in redissolution tissue fluids and expulsion through respiration.

Precise indications of hemoglobin with O₂ is poisoning by carbon monoxide, cyanide poisoning, brain edema, cerebral anoxia, anaerobic infections, osteomyelitis, malignant external otitis, syndrome crushing acute vascular ischemia, the toneless ulcers, diabetes, and the osteoradionekrosi radionekrosi soft tissue and finally syndrome Sudeck. Finally, possible indications of hyperbaric oxygen therapy are burns, acute deafness, etc.

