

Advanced Healing:

Edward J. Kormylo, DPM, FACFAS, Offers Sophisticated Wound Care in the Heart of Long Island



BY KATY MENA-BERKLEY

AT LONG ISLAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL WOUND CARE AND HYPERBARIC MEDICINE CENTERS, LOCATED IN HAUPPAUGE AND PATCHOGUE, PATIENTS CAN COUNT ON TAILORED WOUND CARE TREATMENT PLANS DELIVERED BY A TEAM OF DEDICATED EXPERTS.

FROM A YOUNG AGE, Edward J. Kormylo, DPM, FACFAS, Co-Medical Director and Founder of the Long Island Community Hospital Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine and Founder of Suffolk Foot & Ankle, was inspired to pursue a career in podiatric medicine.

“I used to bring my grandmother to the podiatrist, and I became very interested in the field,” Dr. Kormylo states. “I saw the need for services for people who had difficulty walking. Through the field of podiatry, we are able to improve their quality of life.”

After earning his Bachelor of Science at Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, Dr. Kormylo enrolled at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine in New York City, where he also did his surgical residency. As he gained more training and experience in the field, Dr. Kormylo began to carve out a special area of focus for patients with diabetes.

“I found a really nice niche in the treatment of the diabetic foot,” Dr. Kormylo states. “As I went on through my career,

it was evident that this was going to be a condition that haunted these patients. Nonhealing wounds in the lower extremity can be devastating to the diabetic population.”

A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP

Dr. Kormylo launched his career in a private practice setting, attracting a substantial catalog of patients with diabetes. It did not take long for him to realize that there was a tremendous need for more access to specialized wound care.

“This area was devoid of an active, aggressive wound care center, and forming a partnership with Long Island Community Hospital to provide that service made the most sense,” Dr. Kormylo remarks. “We opened the Long Island Community Hospital Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Center in Patchogue in 2007. From there, it has been nothing but a home run. We were able to establish a strong partnership resulting in the opening of the second center in Hauppauge in 2014, expanding the footprint of Long Island Community Hospital Wound Care and

Hyperbaric Medicine Center even further.”

RIGOROUS ACCREDITATION FOR HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) is one of the hallmark treatment options offered at the centers in Patchogue and Hauppauge. To deliver this therapy, a hyperbaric technician administers oxygen treatments in a highly pressurized environment. This pressure, which is approximately two and a half times higher than normal atmospheric pressure, helps expedite the delivery of oxygenated blood to a patient’s organs and tissues.

Maintaining the highest standard of quality when delivering HBOT is of critical importance for patient safety and positive outcomes. Every three years, the Long Island Community Hospital Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Centers at both Hauppauge and Patchogue participate in a process of accreditation by the Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS).

UHMS is the gold standard for hyperbaric facility accreditation — the only hyperbaric-specific certification

“Running a comprehensive wound care center is a unified team effort. It goes from the receptionist to the person who verifies the insurance to the nurses and physicians who make up the backbone of our facilities. Everyone works together. This is the key to a successful wound care center.”

— EDWARD J. KORMYLO, DPM, FACFAS, CO-MEDICAL DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER OF THE LONG ISLAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL CENTER FOR WOUND CARE AND HYPERBARIC MEDICINE AND FOUNDER OF SUFFOLK FOOT & ANKLE

recognized by The Joint Commission as a Complementary Accrediting organization under the Commission's Cooperative Agreement Initiative. Of the 1,500 hyperbaric facilities in the United States, only 267 earned this distinction during the past 20 years, putting the Long Island Community Hospital Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Centers in an elite group.

To receive the accreditation, each facility has to engage in a week-long process demonstrating proficiency in 640 metrics, including:

- + Indication for the use of HBOT
- + The credentialing process for the doctors, nurse practitioners and hyperbaric oxygen technicians
- + Safety and fire protection protocols
- + A mentoring process for the doctors, podiatrists and nurse practitioners

“From the painting on the walls to the tiles on the floors, the whole center has to be evaluated,” Dr. Kormylo states. “We hit all 640 metrics during the initial credentialing process.”

HBOT is an effective form of therapy for a variety of conditions associated with nonhealing diabetic wounds, including chronic osteomyelitis, flap failures, crush injuries and delayed radiation injuries to soft injury and bone.

The typical course of hyperbaric treatment at Long Island Community

Hospital Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Centers includes a minimum of 30 treatments, which are offered daily for two hours, five days each week.

“These patients become part of our family here. At our centers, we facilitate their needs from home care to intravenous antibiotic therapy,” Dr. Kormylo states. “We have a well-established network for our patients to provide an individual and comprehensive plan of care.”

In addition to HBOT, the team at the centers in Hauppauge and Patchogue offers additional treatment options for nonhealing wounds, including:

- + Bioengineered skin products
- + Soft cast/leg ulceration treatments
- + Surgical debridement
- + Negative pressure wound therapy
- + Total contact cast

“The total contact cast is the gold standard for offloading diabetic foot ulcers,”

To learn more, visit licommunityhospital.org/wound-care-and-hyperbaric-medicine.

Dr. Kormylo states. “We place the foot in a complete sealed cast without having daily dressings. This offloading allows wound closure in approximately one-half the time of conventional treatment.”

An estimated 92% of patients who receive treatment at the Long Island Community Hospital Wound Care Centers experience successful healing of their chronic wounds within four to six weeks.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OPTIMAL OUTCOMES

Each center is staffed by a team of experts specializing in wound care, including a podiatrist, a vascular surgeon, general surgeons, wound care certified registered nurses, medical assistants and certified hyperbaric oxygen technicians. In addition to delivering the standard medical treatments, different members of this team also offer guidance related to lifestyle choices that can benefit closure of nonhealing wounds. An education program provides nutritional guidance for patients with diabetes.

“I am vocal with patients about the consequences of not adhering to their plan of care, which, in some cases, may lead to amputation,” Dr. Kormylo states. “Once they understand that they are at high risk for amputation, they become motivated to follow our program. These patients really appreciate that honesty in the end.”

Medical providers, including podiatrists, primary care physicians, internists, endocrinologists, general and vascular surgeons and home care agencies, should refer a patient to the wound care center if his or her wounds do not heal in four weeks. Patients may also self-refer to receive care at either center. ■

PATIENTS WITH UNEXPLAINABLE flu-like symptoms, such as fever and chills, may have what is known as the “diabetic foot flu.”

“You must remove the patient's socks and shoes to get an accurate assessment,” says Edward J. Kormylo, DPM, FACFAS, Co-Medical Director and Founder of the Long Island Community Hospital Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine and Founder of Suffolk Foot & Ankle. “In multiple instances you may discover the underlying cause is an infection of the foot.”