

Drugs & Diving

Considerations

- Ref Guidelines for Diving
Medical Officers: Medication
and Divers
- Considerations:
 - Underlying disorder (disease
effect on dive safety)
 - Is drug inherently safe for diving
(effect of drugs on dive safety)?
 - What type of diving planned?
 - Will performance be impaired –
unsuccessful mission
 - Proximity to medical care
 - Incapacitation – diver now a threat
to themselves or safety to others
 - Change in drug's efficacy/safety
profile due to hyperbaric env

Considerations

- Considerations Summary:
 - Effect of Drug on Dive Safety
 - Effect of Disease on Dive Safety
 - Effect of Drug on Diving Illness
- “Bad” Drugs
 - Affect alert/LOC/cognitive fx, exercise tolerance, change sz threshold
 - I.e. psychotropics, sedatives, BB etc.
- “Bad” Diseases
 - Affect alert/LOC
 - ↓exercise tolerance/general fx, ↓press equalization, ↑risk DCS
 - I.e. psychiatric, neuro, cardiac, resp, MSK, metabolic, ENT considerations
- “Bad” Dives
 - ↑exertion, exposure (hot/cold), elaborate equipment (rebreathers), dangerous env (overhead, combat, EOD, extreme depth/duration/deco), distance from med resources