Section: Pediatric Trauma
Subject: PEDI DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS AND RELATED EMERGENCIES
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1. Basic ALS treatment
2. Position and transport the patient in the supine position to maximize arterial-venous flow
3. 100% Oxygen via NRBM
4. Document a thorough neurological exam
5. Transport to the closest facility
6. QA Points
    a. The most efficacious intervention for the patient experiencing decompression sickness is 100% oxygen; it reduces intravascular bubble size by increasing the differential pressure for nitrogen diffusion out of the bubbles and speeds the washout of nitrogen from the tissues.[1]
    b. Ground transport is preferred over air transportation because an increase in altitude lowers the ambient pressure and allows microbubbles to expand.
    c. Trendelenburg position, once thought to reduce the degree of cerebral embolization, increases intracranial pressure, facilitates coronary gas embolization, and should be avoided.[2]

[1] Strauss MB, Borer Jr RC: Diving medicine: Contemporary topics and their controversies. *Am J Emerg Med* 2001; 19:232.

[2] Butler BD, et al: Effect of the Trendelenburg position on the distribution of arterial air emboli in dogs. *Ann Thorac Surg* 1988; 45:198.