

DIVING MEDICAL EXAM OVERVIEW FOR THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN

TO THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN:

This person, _____, requires a medical examination to assess his/her fitness for Scientific Diving for the National Undersea Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. His /her answers on the Diving Medical History Form (attached), may indicate potential health or safety risks as noted. Your evaluation is requested on the attached Diving Physical Examination Report Form. If you have questions about diving medicine, you may wish to consult our Diving Medical Advisor whose name and phone numbers appear below. Please contact the undersigned Center Diving Safety Officer if you have any questions or concerns about diving medicine or the medical review standards and procedures. Thank you for your assistance.



Center Diving Safety Officer

Douglas E. Kesling BSN, DMT-A
Printed Name

910.962.2445
Phone Number

Cobern V. Peterson, M.D., Ph.D.
Diving Medical Advisor - NURC/UNCW

910.791.4969 910.341.5002
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Scientific research diving is often performed under harsher conditions and is more arduous than sport SCUBA diving. Also, the locality of the diving may be remote from medical facilities. Please review your records for this diver, including history of illness to determine if there is any problem, which might cause injury or affect performance during strenuous diving activity. A special risk is present if the middle ear, sinuses or lung segments do not readily equalize air pressure changes. The most common cause of distress is Eustachian insufficiency. Most fatalities involve deficiencies in prudence, judgment, emotional stability or physical fitness. Please consult the following list of conditions, which usually restrict candidates from diving.

(Adapted from Bove, 1998)

1. Abnormalities of the tympanic membrane, such as perforation, presence of a monomeric membrane, or inability to autoinflate the middle ears. [5,7,8,9]
2. Vertigo including Meniere's Disease. [13]
3. Stapedectomy or middle ear reconstructive surgery. [11]
4. Recent ocular surgery. [15,18,19]
5. Psychiatric disorders including claustrophobia, suicidal ideation, psychosis, anxiety states, untreated depression. [20 - 23]
6. Substance abuse, including alcohol. [24-25]
7. Episodic loss of consciousness. [1, 26,27]
8. History of seizure. [27, 28]
9. History of stroke or a fixed neurological deficit. [29,30]
10. Recurring neurologic disorders, including transient ischemic attacks. [29,30]
11. History of intracranial aneurysm, other vascular malformation or intracranial hemorrhage. [31]
12. History of neurological decompression illness with residual deficit. [29,30]
13. Head injury with sequelae. [26, 27]
14. Hematologic disorders including coagulopathies. [41, 42]
15. Evidence of coronary artery disease or high risk for coronary artery disease. [33 - 35]
16. Atrial septal defects. [39]
17. Significant valvular heart disease - isolated mitral valve prolapse is not disqualifying. [38]

18. Significant cardiac rhythm or conduction abnormalities. [36 - 37]
 19. Implanted cardiac pacemakers and cardiac defibrillators (ICD). [39, 40]
 20. Inadequate exercise tolerance. [34]
 21. Severe hypertension. [35]
 22. History of spontaneous or traumatic pneumothorax. [45]
 23. Asthma. [42 - 44]
 24. Chronic pulmonary disease, including radiographic evidence of pulmonary blebs, bullae or cysts.[45,46]
 25. Diabetes mellitus. [46 - 47]
 26. Pregnancy. [56]
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Attachments: Diving Physical Examination Checklist
 Physical Examination Report Form
 Diving Medical History Form
 Medical History Questions Evaluation Form
 Medical Evaluation of Fitness for Diving Report
 Selected References in Diving Medicine