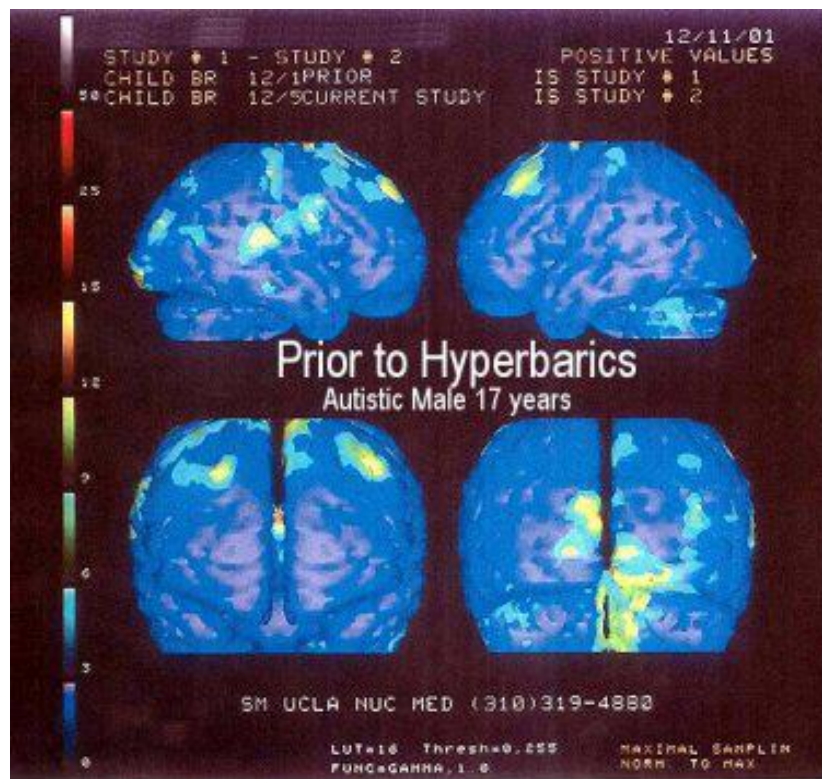


# Autism as a Brain Injury

## HBOT for Autism

Numerous imaging studies have shown abnormalities in the brain structure, anatomy, and biochemistry of children with Autism. Biological risk factors, genetic factors, and associated medical problems have also been identified. Essentially, autism is a wound of the brain, more similar than different to other wounds of the brain described above. What gives autism its peculiar characteristics is what gives a stroke, a TBI, or any other brain disorder its peculiarities: the combination of locations in the brain that are injured. In Autism, what has been identified time and time again is an injury to the frontal and especially temporal lobes of the brain. The frontal lobes control our higher functions, such as thinking, planning, organization, and social interaction. While the temporal lobes control memory, sound and speech processing, and emotion. Both of these areas of the brain also control behavior. Autism is caused by injury to these areas of the brain. The nature of the injury can be multi-faceted; Birth injury, low blood flow and oxygenation, viral infections, vaccine reactions, toxic heavy metals, and variety of other causes have all been implicated with brain injury that results in Autism. Since the initial insult is never apparent at the time of injury, and there is delay in diagnosis, Autism is not usually seen until the brain injury and inflammation have run their courses and it becomes a chronic condition.



Once Autism is recognized as resulting from an injury to the brain, it's clear to see that Autistic patients can respond to HBOT similar to the other wounds described above. Interestingly, Autistic children are extremely sensitive to HBOT. A variety of doses is proving to be effective. Likely, this is due to the major contribution of inflammation to Autism and the effect of HBOT on inflammation. Many studies have now demonstrated that HBOT is one of the most powerful anti-inflammatory drugs. Unfortunately, the immune system has a very long memory once activated. HBOT appears to suppress the inflammatory response in Autism, but does not eradicate it. The immune system is like a dying ember. It smolders for years, but can be fanned to flames with various triggers such as gluten, viral infections, heavy metals, toxins, etc. The key is to suppress the inflammatory response with HBOT over years while minimizing the triggers until the immune system dies back and the embers are extinguished.

