



Austin Hebert

HEALING TOUCH

Austin and his healed finger are pointed in the right direction.

"I can't speak highly enough about my experience at Texas Health Plano. They saved my son's finger. Everyone who touched our lives during those days — I can't thank them enough."

Every president has a signature wave. For Austin Hebert, a McKinney teen and freshman at Louisiana State University who is studying political science, having all ten fingers is important. "I would like to become president," Austin noted about his future career ambitions.

A wave with all of his fingers might not have been possible had it not been for the tireless dedication of Wound Care Services at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano.

In early July, Austin was recovering from a surgery he had undergone at another hospital to remove a growth on the pinky finger of his right hand. Everything seemed to go well but 24 hours later, Austin started experiencing intense pain,

a burning sensation, and also pain in his ring finger. He notified his mom, Kim Hebert, right away. His mom removed the bandage to find that his circulation had been constricted, and that his finger was discolored and swollen. By the next day, he had lost all feeling in his pinky finger. Austin's wound was not healing.

Kim had heard about a new hyperbaric oxygen treatment available through Texas Health Resources and called to make an appointment. Wound Care Services at Texas Health Plano was able to work Austin in as a priority after staff viewed concerning pictures of his finger.

"I immediately picked up the phone and told Kim to bring Austin to the

center right away," said Katrena Sobol, LVN, safety director of the Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center at the hospital. She arranged for Hina Rizvi, MD, CWS, a board-certified wound care specialist on the medical staff at Texas Health Plano, to meet Austin and his family for an immediate assessment.

"It was late in the game and every second we were talking, Austin's finger was dying," Dr. Rizvi remembers. "I knew we had to be aggressive in treatment. Amputation was not an option. I was not going to let an 18-year-old with his whole life ahead of him lose his finger."

Austin was admitted immediately to the ER at Texas Health Plano for some well-coordinated, fast

- _____ | _____ CREATIVE
- _____ | _____ COPYWRITER
- _____ | _____ ACCOUNT SERVICE
- _____ | _____ COPY EDITING
- _____ | _____ PRODUCTION
- _____ | _____ STUDIO

T:16"

HYPERBARIC OXYGEN TREATMENT PROMOTES POWERFUL HEALING

If you are battling a wound that has not shown signs of improvement in four weeks, Wound Care Services at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano has methods that may help. We treat wounds that have resisted healing for months and even years of traditional care.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy increases the amount of oxygen in your blood. While lying in a large, submarine-like chamber, you receive an infusion of 100 percent oxygen as it is circulated to the chamber at pressure levels two to three times greater than normal. The high pressure causes your lungs and body tissues to absorb the oxygen in a shorter amount of time, in greater amounts, and the oxygen boost to the wound promotes healing.

Because it promotes blood flow and increases oxygen circulation, hyperbaric oxygen therapy has also proven to be effective in treating decompression sickness from scuba diving injuries, carbon monoxide poisoning, chronic bone infections, complications arising from prior radiation treatments, traumatic wound injuries to bone, muscle or blood vessels, spider bites, peripheral vascular disease, gas gangrene infections, compromised skin grafts, reattachment of limbs and surgical incisions.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Wound Care Services at Texas Health Plano today at 972-981-8658.



Dr. Hina Rizvi, MD, CWS, a board-certified wound care specialist on the medical staff at Texas Health Plano



diagnostics. In a 24-hour period, he received an MRI and a chest X-ray, had cultures performed, and began taking four doses of antibiotics. The team determined that there was no bone infection and moved quickly to start therapies that could save Austin's dying finger. He was discharged the next day, with an appointment to return the following day to begin hyperbaric oxygen treatment, a process that usually takes up to five weeks to begin.

Dr. Rizvi began treating Austin with "dives," or hyperbaric oxygen treatments, every weekday for two hours. The chamber simulates the pressure of being 33 feet below sea level, and the patient receives 100 percent oxygen while undergoing treatment. The oxygen infuses the plasma in the body to speed up wound healing. Knowing Austin would leave in August to begin his first semester at LSU,

Dr. Rizvi and Austin's care team worked long and hard to ensure he received as many treatments as possible in a two-week period.

"I can't speak highly enough about my experience at Texas Health Plano," Kim Hebert said. "They saved my son's finger. Everyone who touched our lives during those days — I can't thank them enough."

Today, Austin's finger is 100 percent healed. He has regained sensation in his finger — a fact that makes the extra work that Dr. Rizvi and her team put in worth every minute.

"It was teamwork," Dr. Rizvi said. "We were very proactive in his treatment, and were able to save his finger."

Perhaps Austin will give his care team a thumbs-up and his own signature presidential wave — with all 10 of his fingers — in his future career.



Kelly, Bailey, Austin and Kim Hebert

Austin's future First Family supported him through every step of his recovery: From left to right, Austin's dad, Kelly; his sister, Bailey; Austin; and his mom, Kim.

T:10.75"