

## SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

HEALTHCARE PROFILES

**Persistent Wounds: Find Hope for Healing Here** When a wound doesn't improve within two weeks, or heal within a month, it's time to consider Southwest Louisiana's premier destination for specialized wound treatment.



Co-Founder and Managing Partner Ty Hargroder, MD, MS, FFAFP, with Founder and Medical Director Kerry Thibodeaux, MD, FACS, in the hyperbaric oxygen therapy room.

### A GRATEFUL PATIENT

Rene Meric, Jr., lost his left leg to a diabetic ulcer that wouldn't heal.

In September 2010, an ulcer developed on his right leg. His doctors tried but could not halt its growth. Rene relied on painkillers several times a day to ease his discomfort.

"By December, I was afraid I was going to lose my right leg," says Rene, "but my daughter heard about Dr. Thibodeaux at Opelousas. That's when everything changed."

Dr. Thibodeaux took aggressive action: a 36-session series of hyperbaric oxygen treatments, regular wound debridement, and numerous grafts to encourage and protect tissue growth.

"By March 2011, my wound was 35 percent smaller," reports Rene.

"Thanks to Dr. Thibodeaux, I haven't taken a pain pill since October of last year. The wound is almost healed, and, best of all, I still have my right leg!"

"Complicated wounds can be hard to treat in an office environment, so Opelousas General Health System [OGHS] established a hospital-based wound care program," says Dr. Kerry Thibodeaux, Medical Director of *The Wound Treatment Center* at OGHS.

Since then, more than 125,000 wound care patients have benefited from this comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach that draws upon the expertise of surgeons, nutritionists, interventionists, nurses, infectious disease specialists, and other expertly trained staff.

**The result?** Greater than 93 percent of patients are released from care, wounds healed—within six months—thanks to the team's advanced experience and techniques.

"A high level of technology doesn't mean we sacrifice compassion and genuine interest in our patients as individuals," assures Dr. Ty Hargroder, a specialist in hyperbaric oxygen therapy. "Our patients aren't cases or numbers. We get to know them personally."

That's important for patients who may have suffered for months or even years with non-healing wounds.

"Patients who have received less aggressive treatments elsewhere often come to us with wounds that are much more advanced," says Dr. Hargroder. "We have the tools and experience to solve even the most challenging problems."



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