

DIVING MEDICAL EXAM OVERVIEW FOR THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN

TO THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN:

This person requires a medical examination to assess their fitness for certification as a Scientific Diver for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Their answers on the Diving Medical History Form may indicate potential health or safety risks as noted. Your evaluation is requested on the attached scuba Diving Fitness Medical Evaluation Report.

Scuba and other modes of compressed-gas diving can be strenuous and hazardous. 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. Recent deaths in the scientific diving community have been attributed to cardiovascular disease. Please consult the following list of conditions that may restrict candidates from diving.

CONDITIONS WHICH MAY DISQUALIFY CANDIDATES FROM DIVING

1. Abnormalities of the tympanic membrane, such as perforation, presence of a monomeric membrane, or inability to auto inflate the middle ears.
2. Vertigo, including Meniere's Disease.
3. Stapedectomy or middle ear reconstructive surgery.
4. Recent ocular surgery.
5. Psychiatric disorders including claustrophobia, suicidal ideation, psychosis, anxiety states, untreated depression.
6. Substance abuse, including alcohol.
7. Episodic loss of consciousness.
8. History of seizure.
9. History of stroke or a fixed neurological deficit.
10. Recurring neurologic disorders, including transient ischemic attacks.
11. History of intracranial aneurysm, other vascular malformation or intracranial hemorrhage.
12. History of neurological decompression illness with residual deficit.
13. Head injury with sequelae.
14. Hematologic disorders including coagulopathies.
15. Evidence of coronary artery disease or high risk for coronary artery disease.
16. Atrial septal defects.
17. Significant valvular heart disease - isolated mitral valve prolapse is not disqualifying.
18. Significant cardiac rhythm or conduction abnormalities.
19. Implanted cardiac pacemakers and cardiac defibrillators (ICD).
20. Inadequate exercise tolerance.
21. Severe hypertension.
22. History of spontaneous or traumatic pneumothorax.
23. Asthma.
24. Chronic pulmonary disease, including radiographic evidence of pulmonary blebs, bullae, or cysts.
25. Diabetes mellitus.
26. Pregnancy.

Scientific Diving Control Board

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