

MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS

RESEARCH SUMMARY

TOPIC: FIREFLY LIGHTS UP LYMPH NODES
REPORT: **MB #4942**

BACKGROUND: Endometrial cancer represents the most common or most prevalent gynecologic malignancy in the United States. It occurs in the inner lining of the uterus. Cells in the inner lining of the uterus transform and become cancerous, and those cancer cells can affect not just the reproductive organs but, if not identified early, can spread to other parts of the body. Endometrial cancer is often detected at an early stage because it frequently produces abnormal vaginal bleeding. If endometrial cancer is discovered early, removing the uterus surgically often cures endometrial cancer.

(Source: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/endometrial-cancer/symptoms-causes/syc-20352461>)

SYMPTOMS: About 90% of women with endometrial cancer have abnormal vaginal bleeding. This might be a change in their periods, bleeding between periods, or bleeding after menopause. Non-cancer problems can also cause abnormal bleeding. It's important to have a doctor check out any irregular bleeding right away. After going through menopause, it's especially important to report any vaginal bleeding, spotting, or abnormal discharge to your doctor. Pain in the pelvis, feeling a mass and losing weight without trying can also be symptoms of endometrial cancer. These symptoms are more common in later stages of the disease.

(Source: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/endometrial-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/signs-and-symptoms.html>)

NEW TECHNOLOGY: A near-infrared imaging system called Firefly is used to assess sentinel lymph nodes and improve quality of life for patients after endometrial cancer surgery. At the beginning of the surgery, the surgeon injects a fluorescent dye called ICG into the patient's cervix and uterus. The dye is taken up by the patient's lymphatic channels and makes its way into the sentinel lymph nodes. Hackensack University Medical Center's da Vinci robotic surgical systems are specially equipped with near-infrared technology that triggers the injected dye to fluoresce. When the surgeon switches the da Vinci surgical system's camera to "Firefly mode" from the surgical console, the sentinel lymph nodes appear green — making them easier to see and accurately remove.

(Source: <https://www.newswise.com/articles/firefly-fluorescence-imaging-helps-surgeons-identify-sentinel-lymph-nodes-during-robotic-endometrial-cancer-surgery>)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS REPORT, PLEASE CONTACT:

MARY MCGEEVER

551-795-1675

MARY.MCGEEVER@HMH.N.ORG

If this story or any other Ivanhoe story has impacted your life or prompted you or someone you know to seek or change treatments, please let us know by contacting Marjorie Bekaert Thomas at mthomas@ivanhoe.com