



**Medical
Blueprints**

HIPEC KEEPS BUFF BOB BUILDING REPORT #2812

BACKGROUND: Peritoneal cancer is a rare cancer that develops in the thin layer of tissue that lines the abdomen and is made of epithelial cells. This structure is called the peritoneum. This cancer is not the same as intestinal or stomach cancer. Peritoneal cancer starts in the peritoneum, and therefore called primary peritoneal cancer. Peritoneal cancer acts and looks like ovarian cancer because the surface of the ovaries is made of epithelial cells. Therefore, peritoneal cancer and ovarian cancer can cause similar symptoms. Doctors treat them in much the same way, however, despite its similarities with ovarian cancer, you can have peritoneal cancer even if your ovaries have been removed. Peritoneal cancer can occur anywhere in the abdomen and affects the surface of organs contained inside the peritoneum.

(Source: <https://www.webmd.com/cancer/peritoneal-cancer-prognosis-symptoms-treatments#1>)

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT: Diagnosing peritoneal cancer can be challenging because the symptoms are similar to digestive tract problems. Symptoms to look for are a feeling of general pain in your belly, such as indigestion, gas, bloating, or cramps; having indigestion, nausea, or constipation; the need to urinate often; having no appetite or feeling full after eating just a little; losing or gaining weight for no apparent reason; and, bleeding from the vagina, though this symptom is rare. Surgery is usually the starting point for treatment where the ovaries, uterus, and fallopian tubes are removed. You may also have chemotherapy treatments as an outpatient. It is injected into a vein or through a catheter into your abdomen. Radiation involves aiming at the cancer with intense X-rays. Doctors may use this treatment on a small area of the abdomen if cancer returns after the first treatment. Finally, targeted therapy uses drugs or other substances to attack certain molecules such as proteins on cancer cells. It doesn't kill healthy cells and can be used with chemotherapy, surgery, or radiation.

(Source: <https://www.webmd.com/ovarian-cancer/primary-peritoneal-cancer#1>)

UNDERSTANDING HIPEC: HIPEC is performed at the end of surgery to remove abdominal tumors. Once all visible tumors have been removed (called cytoreduction), the surgeon continuously circulates a heated, sterile chemotherapy solution throughout the peritoneal cavity for up to 90 minutes. The HIPEC procedure is designed to attempt to kill any remaining cancer cells that cannot be seen. The solution is then removed, and the incision closed. Giving the chemotherapy in the abdomen at the time of surgery allows for greater concentrations of the drug where it is needed. Adding heat has a threefold advantage: heat above 41 degrees Celsius kills cancer cells more effectively while having fewer effects on normal cells; heat allows the chemotherapy to penetrate a few millimeters and kill cancer cells that cannot be seen; and, the chemotherapy dose can be higher than that given intravenously because it is not absorbed by the body in the same way. The normal side effects of chemotherapy can be avoided with this method.

(Source: <https://health.ucsd.edu/specialties/cancer/programs/gastrointestinal/HIPEC/Pages/default.aspx#:~:text=HIPEC%2C%20a%20form%20of%20chemotherapy,for%20up%20to%2090%20minutes.>)

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