

What is HIPEC?

HIPEC stands for hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemoperfusion. Hyperthermic means heated. HIPEC puts heated chemotherapy drugs (chemo) directly into the abdomen during surgery. The aim is to kill any cancer cells that remain after the surgery.

In HIPEC, surgeons first remove any tumors they can see in the abdomen. A special machine pumps heated chemo liquid into the abdomen. The chemo touches any cancer cells and tumors that are too small to see. After 90 minutes, the chemo is taken out.

What conditions can HIPEC treat?

HIPEC is often the main treatment for a rare condition called pseudomyxoma peritonei. HIPEC is also used to treat a disease called peritoneal mesothelioma.

Other patients who may benefit from HIPEC have late-stage cancers of organs in the abdomen such as the appendix and colon. Some patients with gynecologic cancers can also benefit from HIPEC.

What is the treatment process like?

HIPEC combines surgery and chemo at the same time. The surgery involves an up-and-down incision in the abdomen. All cancer the doctor can see is removed in a procedure called cytoreduction. This may also involve removing organs that have cancer attached.

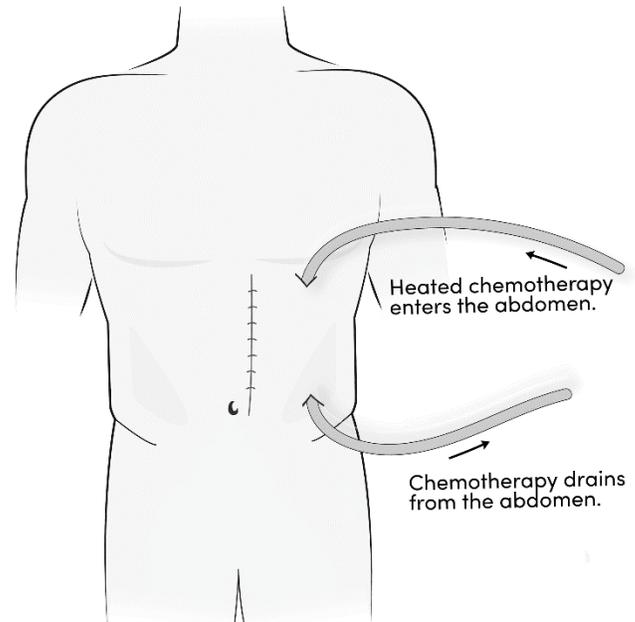
After surgery while the patient is still in the operating room, chemo begins. A pump heats the chemo liquid, and the chemo moves through the abdomen for 90 minutes.

What is the recovery process like?

Recovery time is different for each person.

After HIPEC, patients usually stay in Huntsman Cancer Institute's intensive care unit for 1–2 days. Then they move to the regular recovery unit. Most patients are in the hospital for 7–8 days. This is about the same as for any major surgery in the abdomen.

A week after going home from the hospital, the care team sees the patients in the clinic for follow-up, and later as needed. Recovery at home usually takes another 6–8 weeks.



HIPEC combines surgery and chemo. Surgeons first remove all the cancer they can see. While the patient is still in the operating room, heated chemo goes into the abdomen for 90 minutes.

What are the possible risks?

The possible risks and side effects of HIPEC are the same as for abdomen surgery:

- Pain, which your care team will help manage
- Infection
- Bleeding
- Need for more surgery

Chemo can also lower the number of red and white cells in the patient's blood. The combination of surgery and chemo can also cause extreme tiredness and weight loss. Both of these usually stop 6–8 weeks after HIPEC.

Most people do not lose their hair with HIPEC.