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**Understanding**  
**HIPEC Surgery**



## What is Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC)?

HIPEC surgery is the process of heating chemotherapy drugs and delivering them into the abdominal cavity. This treatment is often combined with Cyto-reductive Surgery.

In HIPEC procedure, the surgeon continuously circulates a heated sterile solution containing a chemotherapeutic agent throughout the peritoneal cavity, for a maximum of two hours. The procedure is designed to kill any remaining cancer cells in the vicinity. The procedure also improves drug absorption and works with minimal exposure to the rest of the body. Through this method, the normal side effects of chemotherapy can be avoided.

## What all Cancers can be treated by HIPEC surgery?

There are certain types of Cancers which are difficult to treat such as:

- Primary Peritoneal Carcinomatosis
- Appendicular Cancer
- Ovarian Cancer
- Colon Cancer
- Gastric Cancer
- Peritoneal Mesothelioma

These cancers metastasise to the peritoneum and are difficult to treat as the conventional injectable chemotherapy drugs are unable to reach the peritoneal surface. In such cases, HIPEC procedure is best recommended as it delivers chemotherapy straight to the cancer within the abdomen.

HIPEC is a very selective procedure which can only be performed in cancers where the tumour has not spread beyond the peritoneum. If in case the disease has spread to the liver or lungs or any other part of the body, then HIPEC procedure is contraindicated.



## Is HIPEC surgery risky?

Despite the complexity of the surgery and the haemodynamic changes that happen during the procedure, HIPEC is a safe surgery with life risk not ranging beyond 3%.

## Can HIPEC Procedure be performed at any Centre?

It's important to realise that HIPEC is a specialised procedure and can only be performed by certified experts in the field. A good Anaesthesia Unit, ICU, Nephrology team, Physiotherapists and Onco-dietician is as important as the surgeon who is performing the surgery.

## How is HIPEC performed?

### Phase I: Cyto-reductive Surgery

First, the doctor performs Cyto-reductive Surgery to evacuate as much visible tumour as possible from the abdominal cavity. Without this surgery, HIPEC is ineffective because the chemotherapy drugs will not be able to penetrate deep into cancer cells.

### Phase II: HIPEC Procedure

In this phase, if there are any remaining cancer cells that are left after heated Chemotherapy then Chemotherapy Bath Surgery is performed immediately to extend survival and prevent cancer recurrence.

## What are the benefits of HIPEC Procedure?

- Targeted Delivery
- Advanced effectiveness
- Reduced risk of systemic toxicity
- Improved long-term outcomes & survival rates