

Advanced Ovarian Cancer Surgery Hipec

Advanced Ovarian Cancer Treatment: Hipec Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy

Ovarian cancer is a complex and often aggressive disease, particularly in its advanced stages when it spreads beyond the ovaries to other parts of the abdomen or pelvis. Effective treatment typically involves a combination of surgery and chemotherapy. At Birmingham Gynaecology Clinic, we specialise in advanced ovarian cancer surgery, including debulking surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC). These treatments are essential for improving outcomes, prolonging survival, and enhancing your quality of life.

What Is Debulking Surgery?

Debulking surgery, also known as cytoreduction, is a key procedure in treating advanced ovarian cancer. The primary goal of this surgery is to remove as much of the tumour as possible. This might involve removing your ovaries, fallopian tubes, and uterus, as well as any visible cancer that has spread within your abdomen. In some cases, parts of other organs, such as your bowel, spleen, or liver, may need to be removed if they are affected by the cancer.

Why Is Debulking Surgery Important?

Debulking surgery is vital for managing advanced ovarian cancer because it significantly impacts the effectiveness of your subsequent treatments, particularly chemotherapy. The success of the surgery is measured by how much cancer remains after the procedure. Optimal debulking aims to leave behind no visible tumour or, at most, a tumour no larger than 1 cm in diameter. Achieving this “optimal” status is associated with significantly better survival rates, as smaller residual tumours are more vulnerable to chemotherapy.

Benefits Of Debulking Surgery

- **Enhanced chemotherapy effectiveness:** Tumours that are reduced in size through debulking surgery respond better to chemotherapy, making it easier to target and destroy the remaining cancer cells.
- **Symptom relief:** By removing large portions of the tumour, debulking surgery can help alleviate symptoms caused by the cancer, such as pain and discomfort.
- **Increased survival rates:** If you undergo successful debulking surgery, where minimal cancer is left behind, you are likely to have better outcomes and longer survival compared to those who do not have the surgery or have significant residual disease.

When Is Debulking Surgery Used?

Debulking surgery is often the first line of treatment for many cases of advanced ovarian cancer. It is typically performed alongside chemotherapy, either before or after the surgical procedure, depending on your specific situation. Given that most ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed at an advanced stage, debulking surgery plays an essential role in your overall treatment plan.

Introduction To Hipec

Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) is an advanced treatment often used in conjunction with debulking surgery for advanced ovarian cancer. After the surgeon removes as much of the tumour as possible, heated chemotherapy drugs are delivered directly into the abdominal cavity. The solution is heated to around 42°C (107.6°F) and circulated within the abdomen for 60 to 90 minutes.

The use of heat enhances the effectiveness of the chemotherapy, allowing it to penetrate more deeply into tissues and target microscopic cancer cells that might remain after surgery. HIPEC is particularly beneficial in reducing the risk of cancer recurrence.

Benefits Of Combining Debulking Surgery And Hipec

Combining debulking surgery with HIPEC offers several advantages in treating advanced ovarian cancer. One of the main benefits is the potential for improved survival rates. Patients who undergo both debulking surgery and HIPEC often experience better long-term outcomes than those who only have surgery.

HIPEC not only helps eliminate residual cancer cells that are too small to be removed surgically but also reduces the likelihood of cancer recurrence. By directly applying heated chemotherapy to the affected area, HIPEC targets remaining cancer cells more effectively than traditional chemotherapy. This approach can delay the progression of the disease and extend the period of remission.

Additionally, HIPEC is associated with fewer side effects compared to traditional intravenous chemotherapy because the treatment is localised within the abdomen. This means higher doses of chemotherapy can be used with reduced systemic toxicity, improving your overall tolerance to the treatment.

What To Expect During And After The Procedure

Undergoing debulking surgery and HIPEC is a major procedure that requires careful preparation. The surgery is performed under general anaesthesia and may last several hours, depending on the complexity and extent of tumour spread. After surgery, you will typically stay in the hospital for 7 to 14 days, including a period of intensive care to monitor your recovery and manage any complications.

Recovery from debulking surgery combined with HIPEC can be challenging. You may experience postoperative pain, fatigue, and temporary changes in bowel function. It's important to follow the recovery plan provided by your gynaecology team, which includes pain management, wound care, and gradually returning to normal activities. Regular follow-up appointments are essential to monitor your recovery, address any complications, and plan further treatment if needed. For more information on debulking surgery see Advanced ovarian cancer

surgery: Debulking surgery (cytoreduction).

Why Choose Birmingham Gynaecology Clinic?

Treating advanced ovarian cancer at Birmingham Gynaecology Clinic involves a multidisciplinary approach, ensuring a comprehensive treatment plan tailored to maximise your chances of success. Our expertise in advanced ovarian cancer surgery, especially when combined with HIPEC, significantly improves survival rates and reduces the risk of recurrence. By choosing Birmingham Gynaecology Clinic, you are placing your care in the hands of a dedicated team of specialists who follow the latest guidelines and best practices, providing you with the most effective treatment options available.

Contact Us

If you or a loved one is facing a diagnosis of advanced ovarian cancer, we are here to provide expert guidance, compassionate care, and the latest in surgical innovation. For more information or to schedule a consultation, please contact Birmingham Gynaecology Clinic. Our dedicated team is here to support you every step of the way. Reach out today to take the next step in your treatment journey.