

Cutting-edge treatment for abdominal cancer

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A team of doctors from MIOT International with specialists from the Christie School of Oncology, UK, will conduct live surgery on Hipec (hyperthermic intraoperative peritoneal chemotherapy), commonly referred to as 'hot chemotherapy' and cytoreduction on Saturday.

Speaking about the treatment at the Indo British Health Initiative's (IBHI's) Hipec meet on Friday, colorectal and laparoscopic surgeon from Christie Clinic, Manchester, Dr C.R. Selvasekar said Hipec was introduced in the early 2000s and that there were only two centres providing this treatment in the UK. Advanced abdominal cancers often spread to the peritoneal lining that does not get adequately treated by chemotherapy and Hipec treatment done immediately after surgery delivers a carefully calibrated dosage of heated chemotherapeutic drugs directly

into the abdominal cavity, said experts.

Hipec treatment (similar to dialysis) is used only for a few cancers such as colorectal cancer (bowel cancer), peritoneal metastases and gastric cancer. "It should be used only for select patients. Not all require this treatment and the cost is approximately ₹3-4 lakh," said Dr Sreeekumar Pillai, director of oncology and chief surgical oncology at MIOT.

The incidence of colorectal cancer is increasing in India and is 10 per one lakh population. The one-year survival rate of this treatment is 80 per cent, said medical oncologist, Dr Ram Prabhu.

Earlier, speaking about 'Cancer in the UK', Sarah O'Dwyer, consultant, colorectal surgery from Christie NHS Foundation Trust, said since 2010, the number of cancer patients undergoing treatment in the UK has increased by 15 per cent. Dr Prithvi Mohandas, founder-secretary of IBHI also spoke on the occasion.