Appendix Cancer / Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Fact Sheet

One of the greatest challenges with peritoneal surface malignancies such as pseudomyxoma peritonei caused by appendix cancer continues to be correct and timely diagnosis along with access to the “Standard of Care” treatment now available to treat this disease: cytoreductive surgery plus hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (CRS/HIPEC). In many of these cases, relatively common symptoms such as abdominal pain, increased abdominal girth, bloating, hernia, ovarian cysts or tumors in women, infertility, and ascites are misunderstood for years.

When patients are misdiagnosed, they are less likely to benefit from CRS/HIPEC, and even with proper diagnosis many patients are never even offered it. This treatment, unavailable to our patient population only a generation ago, has turned what used to be an almost certain death sentence into hope for thousands of patients around the world. CRS/HIPEC has been shown to provide long-term survival in up to 90% of patients with low-grade PMP pathology who are properly diagnosed and undergo this treatment early enough in the disease process to offer maximum benefit.

Greater awareness of this disease and its treatment along with proper diagnosis via tumor marker blood tests (CEA, CA 19.9, CA-125) and CT scans will hopefully give every patient with this disease the opportunity to be treated with the Standard of Care, CRS/HIPEC, by a qualified surgical oncologist before any other counterproductive and potentially damaging treatments are attempted such as unnecessary surgery or systemic chemotherapy for low-grade disease.

For more information on pseudomyxoma peritonei, appendix cancer and peritoneal surface malignancies please visit the ACPMP Research Foundation at acpmp.org.
