

New Cancer Surgery in BC

Hope for patients with peritoneal cancers

Did you know?

More than 500 British Columbians are diagnosed with peritoneal cancer every year. These cancers involve the lining, or peritoneum, of the abdomen and occur when a cancer spreads from its original source – usually the appendix or colon.



Elizabeth Eisner (left) was the first patient to have HIPEC surgery in BC, under the care of Dr. Yarrow McConnell (right). Photo credit Jenelle Schneider/Vancouver Sun.





Surgery offers hope

For some patients, surgery to remove the peritoneum, along with the attached tumour (cytoreductive surgery), combined with a heated dose of chemotherapy applied directly to the abdomen while in the operating room (HIPEC), offers the only hope of cure.

Since the 1990s, this combination of complex surgery and chemotherapy has been offered at select centres across Canada. Until recently, any British Columbian who qualified for surgery had to travel to Calgary or the United States for treatment.

Thanks to a generous donor and the efforts of a surgical oncologist recently recruited to Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC are now available in BC.

In 2013, Dr. Yarrow McConnell moved from Calgary to VGH and launched the BC Peritoneal Malignancy Program.

Donation	Program aim	Number helped	What your gift will fund
\$100	Education		Information packages for 5 patients
\$250	Research		Tissue banking for 5 patients
\$500	Support		Peer support training for 2 volunteers - helping many patients over time
\$1,000	Treatment		Equipment for 2 HIPEC procedures

This program aims to provide improved access to specialized assessment and treatment for all BC residents, education materials and support services for patients and their families, and innovative research to keep BC at the forefront of new developments in peritoneal cancer treatment.

To achieve these aims, the program needs your support. A donation to the Peritoneal Malignancy Fund will help grow important services for all British Columbians.

The chart above illustrates some ways in which your donation will help. If you wish your money to be used for one of the four specific aims (treatment, education, support, or research), please indicate this with your donation.

About the Foundation

VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation partners with donors to provide the funds essential to ensuring that our hospitals and health care teams can deliver BC's best, most specialized care for adults. We raise funds for VGH, UBC Hospital, GF Strong Rehab Centre, the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute and Vancouver Community Health Services.

Donate now

Please consider a gift to help build the Peritoneal Malignancy Program. To make a gift or for more information contact **Stephanie Forgacs** at **604 875 4902** or visit us at **vghfoundation.ca**.