

Your Guide to Intraperitoneal Therapy

Your doctor has decided to treat your cancer with intraperitoneal therapy. This handout will give you basic information about this therapy and help you understand what to expect while you are receiving treatment.

What is Intraperitoneal Therapy?

Intraperitoneal therapy is the delivery of cancer medicine directly into the abdomen through the peritoneum. This type of therapy allows us to directly target the cancer cells.

What is the Peritoneum?

The peritoneum is a membrane that lines the abdominal cavity and abdominal organs.

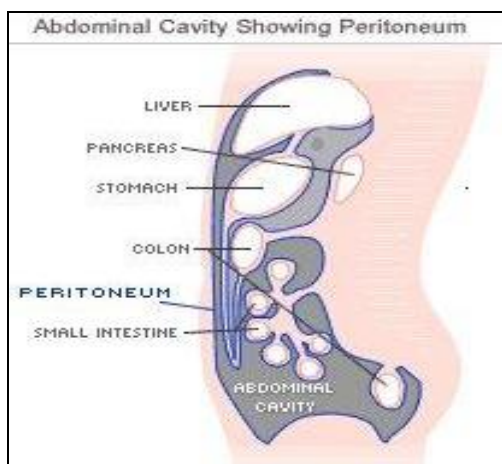
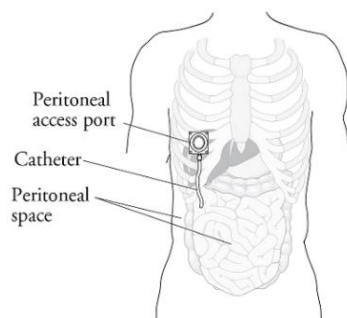


Photo courtesy of: <https://www.mesotheliomacenter.org/images/peritoneal-mesothelioma.gif>

How is the Treatment Given?

The cancer medicine is given through a port-a-cath (port) or special tube-like catheter called a Tenckhoff catheter in the abdomen. Below are pictures of each type of catheter.



Port



Tenckoff

Who Administers Intraperitoneal Therapy?

Specially trained nurses give your therapy in the infusion area. You will be monitored closely during your therapy.

What Happens During the Therapy?

You will need to be in bed lying down during the therapy. The cancer medicine is mixed with one to two liters (approximately 1-2 quarts) of fluid. The nurse will ask you to change your position often to help move the medicine to all areas in your abdomen. When you are discharged home, this fluid usually remains in the abdomen and is absorbed by the body over one to two days.

What are the Possible Side Effects of Intraperitoneal Therapy?

Listed below are possible side effects from the intraperitoneal therapy along with some tips to make you feel more comfortable. Remember, you may not experience any or all of the following:

Managing Your Side Effects Before, During and After Treatment	
Bloating, fullness, or pressure in your abdomen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walk around after the treatment.• Wear loose fitting clothes with a waistline that expands.• Eat a light dinner the night before treatment and a light breakfast the day of treatment.
Bladder fullness or frequent urination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fullness is expected, but emptying your bladder before treatment and frequently after may be helpful.
Shortness of breath or breathing faster	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask your nurse to elevate the head of your bed during the treatment.• Sit up in the chair after treatment.• Walk around after treatment.
Nausea, vomiting, or both	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Let your healthcare team know if you have nausea.• Anti-nausea medicine may be given to you before, during, and after the treatment.
Decrease in appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eat small frequent meals.• Ask your healthcare team for the “Loss of Appetite” tip sheet.
Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell your healthcare team if you have pain.

Although this medicine is given directly into your peritoneum/abdomen, some will be absorbed through your bloodstream and can still cause some side effects. You will be given drug sheets with information regarding the specific medicine you are receiving.

When Should I Call The Healthcare Team?

If you experience any of the following side effects, call your healthcare team at 732-235-2465:

- Increased abdominal pain
- Chills or increased temperature 100.4°F or higher
- Drainage, redness, swelling, or tenderness at catheter site
- Increased shortness of breath

Questions for My Healthcare Team

Use the area below to write any questions you have about your intraperitoneal therapy:

If you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 732-235-2465 and select the option that best meets your needs.

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