

## **Advance Surgery with Heated Chemotherapy bath gives Pankaj Jaiswal new hope for the Future**

*Combination of Cytoreductive Surgery & Heated chemotherapy bath called HIPEC (Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy) technique for the treatment of colorectal cancer was used for the first time*

### **Mumbai 19th Oct 2011:-**

A proficient team of Medical experts led by Dr Sanket Mehta, Oncosurgeon, has successfully operated on 28 yr old young Pankaj Jaiswal who was suffering from advance stage of colorectal cancer. Surgery was performed with the help with the combination of Cytoreductive Surgery & Heated chemotherapy bath called HIPEC (Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy). The advance technique for the treatment of colorectal cancer was is used for the first time, at the premises of International Oncology Services Pvt Ltd at Dr L H Hiranandani Hospital, Powai. The procedure also known as Heated Chemotherapy is expected to relieve the Patient suffering from advanced stage of abdominal cancers like ovarian cancers, pseudomyxomas (cancers arising from the appendix), ovarian cancers and Mesotheliomas. In a critical condition where other available medications have not yielded any good results.

Pankaj Jaiswal Says “I am father of one child and expecting a second one, when I saw some bleeding in the stools I was afraid what was going through and in few days my weight loss, for which I visited a doctor in a reputed hospital. Doctor there investigated and found to have a cancer in the rectum.

“But on further investigations, including a laparoscopy to see the extent of the disease, it was found that the disease had already spread to other areas of the abdominal cavity” said Mr Jaiswal who visited 3- 4 hospitals for treatment.

“The family was counseled that the only treatment available was giving palliative chemotherapy, which will decrease the symptoms and control the disease for a short period but long-term survival was not possible” Said Dr Sanket Mehta, Oncosurgeon, International Oncology Services Pvt Ltd at Hiranandani Hospital, Powai.

“Patient was in very good general condition and was quite motivated to get the treatment done. We started with an aggressive type of chemotherapy involving 3 types of chemotherapy drugs that gave a good response, which is an encouraging sign in these types of patients. After careful evaluation, he was taken up for a surgery where we removed all the disease and then administered chemotherapy directly into the abdomen, which is called as HIPEC (Hyperthermic Intra-peritoneal chemotherapy) using a special machine that delivers this chemotherapy at high concentration, high flow rate and a high temperature. The combination of this aggressive surgery and HIPEC can in fact offer this patient a potential chance of long-term survival” says Dr Mehta.

### **What is Cytoreductive Surgery and HIPEC (heated chemotherapy bath)**

- The concept of this treatment is that all visible tumor that has spread to the peritoneum is first completely removed by a special and aggressive type of surgery called as Cytoreductive surgery (CRS).
- Following this, the microscopic disease that may still be left behind after this extensive surgery

is eradicated by a heated chemotherapy bath, called as HIPEC ( Hyperthermic Intra-Peritoneal Chemotherapy). In HIPEC, we circulate a high dose of chemotherapy within the abdominal cavity using a special closed circuit mechanism and a machine called the HIPEC machine.

- The machine helps to maintain a high temperature and flow rate for the high dose chemotherapy to ensure increased penetration of the chemotherapy into the cancer cells, uniformly within the abdominal cavity so that all cancer cells are destroyed. Moreover, the chemotherapy given during HIPEC does not circulate through the rest of the body and hence the usual side-effects of chemotherapy are avoided. The machine has been specially imported from France, since it is not currently available in India.

### **What is the average duration of the surgery**

- The average duration of the Cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC is about 12-14 hours. However, it depends upon the extent of the disease. In cases like pseudomyxomas or mesotheliomas, we have operated for up to 18 hours.

### **What is unique about this technique?**

- Certain types of cancers like colorectal and ovarian cancers have a tendency to spread along the peritoneal surface (the membrane enveloping the inner surface of the abdomen and covering all intra-abdominal organs. The inherent function of the peritoneum is to act as a barrier between the abdominal cavity and the blood. However, this function means that chemotherapy given by the intra-venous route cannot reach in adequate concentrations into the peritoneal cavity, which is why cancers with peritoneal spread are considered stage 4 cancers since traditional treatment modalities are not efficient in treating them.

- This new treatment protocol of CRS and HIPEC ensures that all visible peritoneal disease is completely removed by the surgery and then the microscopic disease is taken care of by the HIPEC. This ensures that the disease is completely eradicated and we can expect long-term survival and in certain cases a chance of cure even in stage 4 cancers.

- However, this treatment cannot be given to patient who are in very poor general condition or are bed-ridden or those with spread outside the abdomen or who have taken multiple lines of chemotherapy. Since it is an aggressive form of treatment, the patient has to be fit enough to undergo this treatment.

- This treatment is currently available in a handful of centers across the globe, predominantly in Europe and the United States. Dr. Sanket Mehta is the first surgeon in the country to offer HIPEC using the special machine in India.

### **Who are the patients who can benefit from this treatment?**

- This treatment is extremely effective in selected cases of colorectal and ovarian cancers with peritoneal spread (colorectal or ovarian peritoneal carcinomatosis), in pseudomyxoma peritonei (appendix cancer with peritoneal spread), mesotheliomas and desmoplastic small round cell tumors. The chances of long-term survival and cure are greater if they are detected and offered this treatment early in the course of the disease.