



What Is PIPEC / PIPAC?

Pressurized Intraperitoneal Aerosol Chemotherapy (PIPAC) is a newer treatment approach designed for patients who have cancer spread within the abdominal cavity but **are not candidates for cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC**.

Instead of removing tumors surgically, this technique delivers chemotherapy directly into the abdomen using a **pressurized aerosol (mist)**.

The chemotherapy is sprayed throughout the abdominal cavity during a **minimally invasive laparoscopic procedure**, allowing the medication to reach tumor deposits on the lining of the abdomen.

How the Procedure Works

During the procedure:

1. The surgeon makes **two small incisions** in the abdomen.
2. A laparoscope (camera) is inserted to visualize the abdominal cavity.
3. A specialized device converts liquid chemotherapy into a **pressurized aerosol mist**.
4. The chemotherapy mist is circulated throughout the abdomen for about **30 minutes**.
5. The medication is then removed and the small incisions are closed.

Because the treatment is minimally invasive, most patients experience **shorter hospital stays and quicker recovery** compared with major abdominal surgery.

Why Pressure and Aerosol Are Used

Traditional liquid chemotherapy placed in the abdomen may not reach all tumor surfaces evenly.

The pressurized aerosol approach helps:

- distribute chemotherapy more evenly across tumor surfaces
- allow deeper penetration of chemotherapy into tumor tissue
- reach areas that are difficult to treat with liquid chemotherapy alone

Who Might Be a Candidate

PIPAC/PIPEC is generally considered for patients who:

- have **peritoneal metastases** (cancer spread within the abdomen)



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- are **not eligible for cytoreductive surgery with HIPEC**
- have disease that is too widespread for surgical removal
- need symptom control or disease stabilization

In many cases, PIPAC is used alongside **systemic chemotherapy** rather than replacing it.

How It Differs from CRS + HIPEC

CRS + HIPEC

Major open surgery

Tumors are surgically removed

Heated liquid chemotherapy bath

Usually one major procedure

Intended to remove visible disease

PIPAC / PIPEC

Minimally invasive laparoscopic procedure

Tumors are not removed

Pressurized aerosol chemotherapy mist

Often repeated every 6–8 weeks

Often used when surgery is not possible

Current Role in Treatment

PIPAC is still considered a **relatively new and evolving therapy**. It is currently being studied in clinical trials for cancers that spread within the abdomen, including:

- appendix cancer
- colorectal cancer
- ovarian cancer
- gastric cancer

Researchers are investigating whether it can:

- slow disease progression
- reduce tumor burden
- improve quality of life
- possibly convert some patients into candidates for surgery later.



What Is PIPEC / PIPAC?

Why This Is Important for PMP Patients

For people with **Pseudomyxoma Peritonei or other peritoneal cancers who are not candidates for CRS + HIPEC**, therapies like PIPAC/PIPEC may offer:

- another treatment option
- a less invasive approach
- potential symptom relief or disease stabilization

However, it is still considered **an emerging therapy**, and patients should discuss the potential benefits and risks with their oncology team.

"Some medical centers may refer to this therapy as PIPAC, PIPEC, or similar variations depending on the technology used."