



## How PMP Spreads Inside the Abdomen

### *A simple explanation*

Understanding how **Pseudomyxoma Peritonei (PMP)** behaves in the body can help make treatment recommendations easier to understand.

Most cancers spread through the **bloodstream or lymph nodes**, traveling to distant organs like the lungs or bones. PMP usually behaves differently.

In most cases, PMP begins with a **mucin-producing tumor of the appendix**. When that tumor ruptures or leaks, mucus-producing tumor cells can escape into the abdominal cavity.

These cells then settle on surfaces inside the abdomen and pelvis, including:

- the lining of the abdomen (peritoneum)
- the surface of the intestines
- the liver and spleen surfaces
- the diaphragm
- the pelvis and ovaries (in women)

Once these cells attach to these surfaces, they can continue producing **mucin**, a thick jelly-like substance.

Over time, mucin may collect in certain areas of the abdomen where fluid naturally settles due to gravity. Specialists often see mucin collecting in areas such as:

- the pelvis
- around the liver
- along the diaphragm
- between loops of intestine

As mucin accumulates, it can begin to **place pressure on organs**. This pressure is what often leads to symptoms such as abdominal swelling, fullness, digestive changes, or bowel obstruction.

Because PMP usually remains within the abdominal cavity, treatment focuses on **removing the visible tumor and mucin from the abdomen**, which is why cytoreductive surgery is often recommended when possible.