Appendix tumours are unusual, accounting for 0.4% of all cancers of the bowel. Cancers of the appendix can spread to other parts of the abdomen and have secondary growths that attach to other organs or the inner lining of the abdominal and pelvic cavity which is called the peritoneum. These are called peritoneal metastases. These growths can produce a quantity of a jelly-like substance called ‘mucin’ or ‘mucinous ascites’ which can cause swelling of the abdomen.

**Symptoms of cancer of the appendix**
The progression of this disease can be difficult to detect. There are few early symptoms of cancer of the appendix spreading into the abdomen. In most cases the spread to the abdomen is discovered at surgery. A few patients have pain in the abdomen and some notice an increase in the size of their abdomen.

**How is cancer of the appendix diagnosed?**
It is usually diagnosed at point of surgery, either on your first operation or at a later date after a CT scan.

**Treatment**
Surgery has traditionally not been used with the intention of curing the cancer when it spreads to the peritoneum. However there is evidence that if the size and spread of the cancer is limited then a special surgical technique called ‘cytoreductive surgery’ that removes all the visible disease can be helpful. This treatment can involve major surgery to remove organs in the abdomen and the peritoneum.

If the surgeon has removed all or most of the cancer, heated chemotherapy drugs are put in the abdomen while you are under the anaesthetic to kill any cancer cells that cannot be seen. This is a process called hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy or ‘HIPEC’ (see The Christie information leaflet ‘Colorectal cancer & HIPEC’). A combination of using a chemotherapy drug in a heated fluid that is circulated through the abdominal cavity which helps to destroy and remove any cancer cells that could otherwise grow into further tumours. The treatment we can offer will vary depending on the extent that the cancer has spread.

**Consent to treatment**
The colorectal and peritoneal oncology team will discuss the treatment that is recommended for you and explain how it will affect you.

We will ask you to sign a consent form agreeing to accept the treatment that you are being offered. The basis of the agreement is that you have had The Christie’s written description of the proposed treatment and that you have been given an opportunity to discuss any concerns. You are entitled to request a second opinion from another doctor who specialises in treating this cancer. You can ask your own consultant or your GP to refer you. Your consent may be
withdrawn at any time before or during this treatment. Should you decide to withdraw your consent then a member of your treating team will discuss the possible consequences with you.

The colorectal and peritoneal oncology centre
The colorectal and peritoneal oncology centre has an international reputation for treating advanced and early colorectal cancer, appendix tumours, peritoneal tumours, anal cancer and tumours within the pelvis.

If you have a query regarding our service, please contact 0161 446 8051.

The service will provide:
• ongoing advice and support for patients, their partners and families
• information and advice about treatment and treatment options
• a point of contact should problems arise
• a link with other health care professionals involved in your care at home and in hospital
• referral to specialist services

Who can contact us?
Any health care professional who needs information or advice and any patient coming for assessment or treatment (for cytoreductive surgery and intraoperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy for colorectal cancer) can contact the service themselves. They can also be referred by another health care professional. We are also happy to speak to partners, friends and family, providing the patient has given consent.

If you know the name of your consultant, please contact their secretary directly:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Consultants:</th>
<th>Contact:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miss S T O’Dwyer</td>
<td>Eve Kennerley 0161 446 8311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr M S Wilson</td>
<td>Gill Harrison 0161 446 3366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr P E Fulford</td>
<td>Rebecca Brown 0161 918 7352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof A Renehan</td>
<td>Bev Tyrrell 0161 918 2189</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr C R Selvasekar</td>
<td>John Lupea 0161 918 2310</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr O Aziz</td>
<td>Laura Elliott 0161 918 2057</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss A Minicozzi</td>
<td>Marion McKenna 0161 918 2391</td>
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<tr>
<th>Clinical Nurse Specialists:</th>
<th>Contact:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Halstead</td>
<td>0161 918 7096 / 07766 780952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Connolly</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebecca.halstead@christie.nhs.uk">rebecca.halstead@christie.nhs.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Wardlow</td>
<td>0161 918 7859 / 07785 725629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Wemyss</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rachel.connolly@christie.nhs.uk">rachel.connolly@christie.nhs.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0161 918 7183 / 07826 892213</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lisa.wardlow@christie.nhs.uk">lisa.wardlow@christie.nhs.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0161 918 2097 / 07824 373 785</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sarah.wemyss@christie.nhs.uk">sarah.wemyss@christie.nhs.uk</a></td>
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<td>Fax: 0161 918 7078</td>
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<th>Service Manager:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah Rogers</td>
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Working hours are 8am to 4pm (at other times please leave a message).

Key worker
Your key worker (nurse) ……………………………. can be contacted on ………………………

If your key worker is not available, please leave a message on the answering machine with your name, date of birth and telephone number. All messages will be responded to as quickly as possible, but this may not always be on the same day.

If you have any problems after your operation, please contact Ward 10 on 0161 446 3860.

Further information

For information about the colorectal and peritoneal oncology centre visit
www.christie.nhs.uk/cpoc

Christie information
The cancer information centre at The Christie in Withington stocks a wide range of booklets free to patients, their families and carers and offers a free confidential service for anyone affected by cancer. Contact 0161 446 8100.

Complementary therapy and smoking cessation
There is an outpatient drop-in service at The Christie on Tuesday and Thursday from 4pm. Contact directly by calling 0161 446 8236 or 0161 918 7175.

Maggie’s centre
The centre provides a full programme of practical and emotional support, including psychological support, benefits advice, nutrition and head care workshops, relaxation and stress management. Contact Maggie's on 0161 641 4848 or email manchester@maggiescentres.org

Macmillan Cancer Support
This is a national charity offering advice and support. Call the freephone helpline 0808 808 0000 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm) or if you are hard of hearing, use the textphone 0808 808 0121. Macmillan Cancer Support publish booklets which are free and available on their website www.macmillan.org.uk

Useful websites:
www.pseudomyxomasurvivor.org (charity and patient forum)
References

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact patient.information@christie.nhs.uk

For more information about The Christie and our services, please visit [www.christie.nhs.uk](http://www.christie.nhs.uk) or visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford.

Contact The Christie Hotline for urgent support and specialist advice

The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
Wilmslow Road
Manchester M20 4BX
T: 0161 446 3000
www.christie.nhs.uk

The Christie Patient Information Service
February 2017 - Review February 2020