



A bright new hope



How a pioneering technique called HIPEC is being used to benefit people with bowel cancer at HCA Healthcare UK's centres of excellence

When you or a loved one is diagnosed with cancer, it's important to remember that no one with the disease is alone: more than 2.5 million people in the UK are thought to be living with it.

This may sound surprising, but it's a measure of the increased success in fighting cancer that the number of people living with it is growing, at a rate of around 3 per cent a year. There are also

more opportunities to make informed decisions about care, thanks to HCA Healthcare UK.

Improvements in care are driven by the pioneering efforts of medical experts, such as Sarah O'Dwyer (below left), a clinical professor of surgery at the University of Manchester and a consultant surgeon at The Christie Private Care in Manchester, a centre of clinical excellence operated by HCA Healthcare UK, in partnership with the world-famous Christie NHS Foundation Trust.

Professor O'Dwyer has pioneered a new approach to one type of bowel cancer, which affects around 32,000 people a year in the UK. "Of those 32,000 new cases," she explains, "about 10 to 15 per cent will have a cancer that's spread through the lining tissue of the abdomen and organs."

This can be treated with an innovative new procedure called HIPEC (hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy), that combines surgical tumour reduction with the application of localised, heated chemotherapy. This process helps to destroy any cancer cells that might develop into further tumours.

"Our team has been pioneering this approach for more than ten years, when I first spotted its potential for use in bowel cancer treatment," explains Professor O'Dwyer.

"I treated our first patient in about 2004; he's still alive. This is remarkable, because the average survival for this type of cancer is less than 24 months. With this technique, our overall figures are

a little more than 50 per cent long-term survival." Also, says Professor O'Dwyer, because HIPEC focuses on the direct delivery of drugs to the affected area: "The chemotherapy side effects are much less when the drugs are given directly: for example there is no hair loss and sickness."

The complexity of the procedure, however, means that the Christie is one of only three centres in England currently licensed by the NHS to conduct it, and The Christie Private Care is one of very few private facilities capable of offering the treatment.

"At the moment, the three centres in England are probably treating around 120 patients a year," says Prof O'Dwyer. "But there are probably around 1,000 patients a year who might benefit. And that's why we also offer educational resources for people who treat bowel cancer, to make them aware there is a subgroup they need to think about referring to a specialist clinic."



To learn more or to book an appointment with a consultant, contact **HCA Healthcare UK**.

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The Wellington Hospital
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The Christie Private Care
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