

Repeat cytoreductive surgery with hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy: review of indications and outcomes

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Abstract: Cytoreductive surgery (CRS) with hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) is an established treatment option in selected patients with peritoneal dissemination from a variety of epithelial primaries. Even though a small proportion will be alive and potentially cured at 10 years, the majority will eventually develop recurrent disease. Repeat CRS/HIPEC is a valid consideration in a selected subpopulation of patients with isolated peritoneal recurrence. This review summarizes the data on patient selection, feasibility, limitations and outcomes of repeat CRS/HIPEC.

Keywords: Repeat cytoreduction; hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC)

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Introduction

Cytoreductive surgery (CRS) with hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) is currently offered in many centers across the United States, treating peritoneal surface disease predominantly from appendiceal, colorectal, ovarian and mesothelioma primaries.

Patient selection for CRS/HIPEC is based on the type of primary, volume and topography of peritoneal disease as well as age, functional status and comorbidities (1). Despite the efficacy of CRS/HIPEC in treating peritoneal surface disease, the majority of patients will eventually develop recurrent disease (2-4). Recurrence following CRS/HIPEC usually occurs in an isolated intra-abdominal location in 31-57% of patients (4-7). Although a subset of patients with recurrence may remain asymptomatic for prolonged intervals, the majority of patients eventually die from intestinal obstruction and malnutrition (8,9). Given this pattern, patients with late peritoneal recurrence without a concomitant extra-abdominal component, can be evaluated

for repeat CRS/HIPEC. These patients in addition, should have preserved nutritional and ECOG status. Repeat CRS/HIPEC is associated with similar morbidity and mortality compared to the initial operation. In our experience only 7% of patients receive repeat CRS/HIPEC, with the ability to achieve a complete macroscopic cytoreduction and the time interval between the two procedures being the two major factors determining patient selection and survival (10) (Tables 1,2).

The primary aim of this review is to present the available outcomes data on repeat CRS/HIPEC procedures.

Appendiceal primaries

Pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP) from appendiceal primaries include tumors with a wide spectrum of biologic behavior that ranges from chronic indolent disease to rapid progression with distant metastasis. The two tier Wake Forest Classification described by Bradley *et al.* (13,14) stratifies patients with mucinous carcinoma peritonei

Table 1 Repeat HIPEC for all peritoneal surface malignancies

Author (citation)	Study type	Year	N	PCI	PFS (months)	Overall survival (months)	Median follow-up (months)	Morbidity (overall/grade 3 and 4) (%)	Mortality (%)	CC 0-1 (%)
Votanopoulos <i>et al.</i> (10)	R	2012	62	NA	27±29 (to Dx of recurrence)	32.2	60.8	43.5/14.5	3.2	R0-R1, 43.5/R2a, 25.8/R2b-R2c, 30.6
Golse <i>et al.</i> (11)	R	2012	30	10.3 (mean)	22 (between operations)	140.0	18.0	73.3/40.0	3.3	90.0
Wong <i>et al.</i> (12)	R	2015	7	19.0 (median)	20 (to Dx of recurrence)	26.0	13.0	28.6/14.3	0.0	100.0

HIPEC, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy; R, retrospective; N, number of patients; PCI, peritoneal cancer index; PFS, progression free survival; CC, completeness of cytoreduction; Dx, diagnosis.

Table 2 Median overall survival from the first CRS/HIPEC classified by histologic type

Author (citation)	Median overall survival	Appendiceal	Mesothelioma	Ovarian	Colorectal	Other
Votanopoulos <i>et al.</i> (10)	32.2 [62]	85.3 [33]	52.9 [7]	60.1 [8]	137.4 [4]	– [10]
Golse <i>et al.</i> (11)	140.0 [30]	– [6]	– [3]	– [9]	– [8]	– [4]
Wong <i>et al.</i> (12)	26.0 [7]	107.0 [3]	39.0 [1]	23.5 [2]	11.0 [1]	–

Data presented as overall survival in months (number of affected individuals). CRS, cytoreductive surgery; HIPEC, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy.

into two groups: low and high grade which combines the 3 groups described by Ronnett *et al.* in 1995 (15). More specifically, low-grade tumors include those with disseminated peritoneal adenomucinosis (DPAM), well-differentiated mucinous carcinomatosis, peritoneal mucinous carcinomatosis with intermediate or discordant features (PMCA I/D) and well-differentiated variants of mucinous adenocarcinoma or low-grade appendiceal mucinous neoplasms. High-grade tumors include moderate or poorly-differentiated adenocarcinoma, PMCA, and cases with signet-ring cell components. Categorization of appendiceal primaries as either low- or high-grade provides the prognostically relevant pathological grade and utilizes terminology that is appropriate to the clinical context.

Over the past few decades, the standard of care has changed from debulking only, to cytoreduction followed by HIPEC. In one of the earliest studies of patients with PMP, Gough *et al.* at the Mayo Clinic reported surgical outcomes of 56 patients with predominantly appendiceal and ovarian primaries (16). HIPEC was administered in 13% of the cohort. With a median follow up of 12 years, disease recurrence was noted in 76% with 50% of the recurrences noted within 2.5 years from initial surgery. Repeat CRS was

performed in 71% of patients that suffered the recurrence (11% of those with HIPEC), but only 20% had a complete cytoreduction. Even though CRS with HIPEC prolonged recurrence free survival, these historic data include patients from a period when pathological classification of PMP was not well understood, criteria for treatment were not well defined, and detection of recurrence was based on follow up physical exam rather than modern imaging.

Esquivel and Sugarbaker published one of the first series of patients undergoing second look after initial CRS/HIPEC. Of the initial 321 patients, 98 (30.5%) underwent a second look operation for multiple indications, of which 79 patients underwent a repeat CRS/HIPEC (17). The overall 5-year survival of these patients was 73.6% compared to 68% for the patients that did not undergo reoperation. Small bowel involvement was associated with a 28% 5-year survival despite second look CRS/HIPEC. Completeness of cytoreduction was associated with improved long-term survival (84% 5-year survival). The authors emphasized the importance of a staged approach in patients with high PCI (peritoneal cancer index) and wide dissemination. They suggested complete cancer removal from targeted anatomic sites with planned second-look for the rest of the involved

areas. This staged approach offers the chance to assess the response of the cytoreduced areas. Durable response with a decrease in the PCI of the treated areas is a favorable indicator for survival. They concluded that repeat CRS in patients with appendiceal primaries is feasible with good overall long-term survival because of infrequent metastasis outside the peritoneal cavity, compressive rather than invasive behavior of the recurrent disease, relative sparing of small bowel and a good response to intraperitoneal chemotherapy.

In a more recent study from the same center, Yan *et al.* analyzed a cohort of 402 patients with PMP from low and high-grade appendiceal primaries treated with CRS and HIPEC (18). Of those, 111 (28%) were found to have disease progression on follow-up and 98 had repeat CRS-HIPEC with significantly improved survival (75% at 5 years) compared to those that did not undergo a repeat procedure. Only incomplete cytoreduction was identified as an independent predictor of reduced survival on multivariate analysis. Fifty three of the 98 patients had disease progression, of which 26 underwent a third CRS with or without HIPEC. Overall survival in patients that underwent iterative CRS was better than those that did not undergo a repeat procedure. PMCA was found to be associated with reduced recurrence-free and overall survival though the 10-year survival of complete CRS was reported to be 75%, significantly higher than the 10-20% reported in historic controls.

In an attempt to further define the viability of repeated attempts at CRS/HIPEC, the same group studied 45 patients with appendiceal cancer and carcinomatosis that underwent 3 or more operative procedures. The 5- and 10-year survival rates reported were: 60% and 48% for 3, 78% and 36% for 4 and 100% and 80% for 5 or more interventions, respectively (19). Complete cytoreduction, especially at the subsequent procedures was associated with improvement in survival. Tumor histology, indication for repeat surgery and nodal status did not have a significant impact on survival regardless of the number of surgical interventions. An interesting finding in this study was the change in histologic type in subsequent procedures in 21 (47%) patients. In 14 patients, a more aggressive histologic type was noted whereas the remaining had less aggressive pathologic type noted on repeat CRS; however, survival was not statistically impacted by change in tumor histology. The authors describe several possible etiologies for this change including incorrect initial diagnosis, dedifferentiation, sampling error and direct cytotoxic

effects from intraperitoneal chemotherapy resulting in less aggressive tumor biology.

Miner *et al.* published their 22-year cohort with PMP from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (20). They identified 97 patients, 52% with low grade and 48% with high grade appendiceal adenocarcinoma who underwent 202 operations. 55% of patients underwent a complete CRS. About 91% of these patients recurred with a median disease-free interval of 24 months. About 70% of patients had repeat CRS: 39% had 2, 21% had 3, 7% had 4 and 3% had 5 or more operations. Tumor grade and completeness of cytoreduction were independently associated with prolonged survival. Median survival for low grade tumors was 12.8 *vs.* 4 years for high grade tumors. Perioperative mortality was 4%, morbidity rate was based on the extent of surgery score and was highest at 38% for extensive CRS involving >5 regions.

Sardi *et al.* reported 54% and 34% 5-year survival rate after the first and second CRS/HIPEC respectively, in a cohort of 22 patients with peritoneal carcinomatosis of appendiceal origin who underwent repeat HIPEC (21). With regard to specific histopathology, PMCA (high-grade) patients had a median survival of 53 and 29.9 months after the first and second CRS/HIPEC respectively whereas DPAM (low-grade) patients had 90% 5-year survival after the first CRS/HIPEC and 100% after the second. Major complication rate was 43% whereas there was no 30-day or in-hospital mortality. PCI rates were not significantly different between the two groups with 65% of patients in both groups having PCI ≥ 20 .

In a study published from our center for repeat cytoreduction, 33/62 patients who underwent repeat CRS/HIPEC had an appendiceal primary (10). Median overall survival for this subgroup after the second CRS/HIPEC was 52.1 months. Resection status for the second CRS and time interval between the two procedures were associated with survival in multivariate analysis. Overall morbidity, including minor and major, was 43.5% and mortality was 3.2%.

Repeat CRS/HIPEC for appendiceal primaries appears to be a reasonable option for patients with limited, isolated peritoneal recurrence with meaningful long-term outcomes and acceptable morbidity and mortality in experienced centers (Table 3).

Colorectal primary

Colorectal cancer represents the third most common type of cancer in the developed world with common areas of

Table 3 Outcomes after repeat CRS/HIPEC for appendiceal primaries

Author (citation)	Study type	Year	N	PCI	High grade	Overall survival	PFS	Median follow-up (months)	Morbidity (grade 3 and 4)	Mortality	CC 0-1
Esquivel <i>et al.</i> (17)	R	2001	98	NA	NA	5-year 73.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	68.4% (2nd CRS)
Yan <i>et al.</i> (18)	R	2007	98	19.0 (mean)	38.0%	5-year 90.0%	5-year 70%	66.0	NA	NA	78.0% (2nd CRS)
Mohamed <i>et al.</i> (19)	R	2003	45	NA	5.0%	5-year 70.0%	NA	NA	11.0%	4.4%	57.8% (3rd CRS)
Miner <i>et al.</i> (20)	R	2005	38/97	NA	48.0%	Median survival 9.8 years	NA	NA	16.0% (of all operations)	4.0% (entire population)	35.0% (overall)
Sardi <i>et al.</i> (21)	R	2013	26	>20.0 (65%)	61.5%	5-year 33.9 months	NA	28.0	27.0%	0.0%	96.0%
Votanopoulos <i>et al.</i> (10)	R	2012	33/62	9.2 (mean)	15.2%	Median survival 52.1 months (after 2nd)	NA	60.8	14.5%	3.2%	R0-R1 43.5%; R2a 25.8%; R2b-R2c 30.6%

CRS, cytoreductive surgery; HIPEC, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy; R, retrospective; N, number of patients; PCI, peritoneal cancer index; PFS, progression free survival; CC, completeness of cytoreduction; NA, not available.

metastatic disease including the lymph nodes, liver, lungs and the peritoneum (22). Historically, 5-10% of patients with colorectal carcinoma present with synchronous metastases of the peritoneum and 20-50% present with metachronous disease (23,24). Prospective randomized clinical trials, case control studies and meta-analyses have demonstrated the benefit of CRS/HIPEC in the setting of peritoneal carcinomatosis from colorectal cancer for selected patients, with 5-year survival between 17-51% in selected patients (2,25-28). A Consensus statement published in 2006 recommended the use of CRS/HIPEC for peritoneal carcinomatosis of colorectal origin and discussed variables that are commonly associated with a complete cytoreduction, which has been shown to be a predictive factor of survival. These factors included ECOG performance status, no evidence of extra-abdominal disease, up to three small resectable hepatic metastases, absence of several segmental sites of malignant small bowel obstruction, small volume disease in the gastro-hepatic ligament and no evidence of biliary/ureteral/small bowel obstruction in more than one site (29). However, even with complete cytoreduction, disease recurrence at a median interval of 6-12 months occurs in 48-70% of patients, with 31-57% of them presenting with isolated peritoneal disease (4,7,30). Therefore, selected patients will be considered for repeat cytoreduction. Given that there

are no randomized trials addressing the role of repeat CRS/HIPEC in colorectal cancer, most of the data are derived from retrospective studies.

In one of the earliest studies, 18 patients with recurrent colorectal cancer who underwent repeat CRS/HIPEC were analyzed (31). Completeness of cytoreduction both at the first and the repeat procedure were found to positively correlate with improved survival. Following a repeat CRS/HIPEC procedure, with a median survival of 20 months, an improved survival at 2 years was noted in patients that had a PCI score of 12 or less.

In a large retrospective multicenter study that included 506 patients from 28 institutions, an overall recurrence rate of 64.2% and peritoneal recurrence rate of 41.9% was described for patients undergoing complete cytoreduction (32). Twenty six patients underwent a second procedure with significantly improved median survival of 57.6 months. The completeness of the cytoreduction score, use of adjuvant chemotherapy and a second procedure performed were significant predictors for improved survival while the reported mortality and morbidity rates were 4% and 22.9%, respectively. The use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy, lymph node involvement, presence of liver metastasis, and poor histologic differentiation were negative independent prognostic indicators. The median disease-free survival was 13 months leading the authors to recommend a second look

procedure for patients who remained without disease at 1 year from their initial operation.

In another study from France, 43 patients with peritoneal carcinomatosis with or without liver metastases from colorectal cancer were studied with 26% undergoing repeat CRS/HIPEC (33). Of note, 26% of patients had liver resection prior to, at the same time or after the initial CRS/HIPEC. A total of 70% of patients underwent complete CRS after the second procedure compared to a 50% rate of complete CRS achieved during the first operation. Median survival after repeat CRS/HIPEC was 38.4 months and 4-year survival was reported at 44%. There was no survival difference between patients undergoing CRS/HIPEC for peritoneal carcinomatosis alone or those undergoing concomitant liver resection (median survival 35.3 *vs.* 36 months). Mortality rate was 2.3% and reported morbidity rate was 39%. Similar to other reports, completeness of the cytoreduction was found to be a significant predictor of survival on multivariate analysis. The authors concluded that there was a definitive role for repeat CRS/HIPEC in selected patients with peritoneal carcinomatosis for colorectal cancer.

In their study of 70 patients undergoing CRS/HIPEC for colorectal carcinoma, Bijelic *et al.* documented recurrences in 49 patients, 36.7% of whom had isolated localized peritoneal disease (34). Twenty six patients underwent a second CRS/HIPEC with a median survival that was significantly longer than that of patients who did not have a second operation (39 *vs.* 20 months). Three patients were still alive without evidence of disease 5 years after diagnosis of recurrence. The authors postulate that localized isolated intraperitoneal recurrences could be considered a form of surgical failure, likely secondary to inability of intraperitoneal chemotherapy to eradicate tumor cells being trapped within scar tissue. They cautioned against repeat CRS/HIPEC in patients with diffuse intra-abdominal recurrence, as these patients had much poorer long-term survival. Given that the extent of disease and ability to achieve a complete cytoreduction are major factors associated with overall survival, a recent study similarly demonstrated no additional survival benefit from CRS/HIPEC over palliative surgery in patients with PCI higher than 17 (35).

In a recent review, Williams *et al.* attempted to clarify the role of CRS/HIPEC for tumor recurrence by presenting data from their own institution and that from other reported series in the literature (36). The study included 18 patients from the authors' institution with reported median survival of 59 months from first and 22.6 months from second CRS

comparing favorably to the other reported series between 20 and 57.6 months. The observed major complication rate was 16.7% and there was no postoperative mortality, results identical to those presented from different studies in the literature. However given the small number of patients and lack of randomized trials for patients undergoing repeat CRS/HIPEC, they concluded that patient selection should be tailored based on a multidisciplinary approach.

In one of the largest series, Braam *et al.* studied 287 patients undergoing CRS/HIPEC for colorectal primary, of which 132 (46%) were diagnosed with recurrent disease after a median disease-free interval of 11.4 months (37). 43% of these were isolated locoregional recurrences. Of the 132 patients, 32 with recurrences (24%) were treated surgically with curative intent, which increased median overall survival from 12 to 43 months, compared to palliative treatment. Lymph node status and number of regions involved at initial CRS were the strongest predictors of long-term outcome.

Repeat CRS/HIPEC for colorectal primary, therefore appears to be a feasible practice in carefully selected patients, with completeness of cytoreduction and low tumor burden being predominant predictors of improved survival (*Table 4*).

Ovarian cancer

Epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC) is the commonest cause of gynecologic cancer deaths in the western world and the fifth most common cause of cancer deaths in U.S. women, with over 14,000 deaths expected in 2015 (38,39). Most patients present with metastatic disease and a majority of patients with stage III ovarian cancer are treated with upfront CRS and systemic platinum based chemotherapy, with a high initial response rate (40). Despite this, 60% of patients with a good response will recur within 5 years while another 20% of patients are inherently resistant to platinum based regimens (41,42). No current standard of care has been defined for recurrent patients.

In accordance with an early Cochrane database review (43), many patients have been historically treated with systemic chemotherapy alone and a few select patients are offered repeat CRS. In two separate meta-analyses, Bristow *et al.* demonstrated the importance of complete cytoreduction in improving overall survival; referral to a specialized center and completeness of cytoreduction being the most significant determinants of improved long-term survival (40,44). In an updated analysis of the Cochrane database that included 1,194 patients from 9 studies,

Table 4 Outcomes after repeat CRS/HIPEC for colorectal primaries

Author (citation)	Study type	Year	N	PCI	Median overall survival (months)	Median follow-up (months)	Morbidity (grade 3 and 4)	Mortality	CC 0-1
Portilla <i>et al.</i> (31)	R	1999	18	>12 (44.4%)	20.0	71.0	25.0%	0.0%	77.8%
Glehen <i>et al.</i> (32)	R	2004	506	NA	57.6 (2nd)	53.0	22.9%	4.0%	74.5%
Kianmanesh <i>et al.</i> (33)	R	2007	43	Gilly III-IV 77%	38.4	NA	39.0% (all grades)	2.3%	70.0%
Bijelic <i>et al.</i> (34)	R	2007	49	15 (mean)	30.0	29.5	NA	NA	69.2%
Goéré <i>et al.</i> (35)	R	2015	139	11 (mean)	3-year survival 52.0%	60.0	23.0% intra-abdominal; 44.6% extra-abdominal	6.0%	100.0%
Williams <i>et al.</i> (36)	Review	2014	18	5 (median)	22.6 (2nd)	NA	16.7%	0.0%	88.9%
Braam <i>et al.</i> (37)	R	2014	32	NA	43.0	26.6	22.0%	3.1%	NA

CRS, cytoreductive surgery; HIPEC, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy; R, retrospective; N, number of patients; PCI, peritoneal cancer index; CC, completeness of cytoreduction; NA, not available.

complete cytoreduction was found to be associated with a significant improvement in overall survival for platinum-sensitive recurrent ovarian cancer (45). Even though the role for addition of HIPEC has not been well elucidated, the distinct biology of EOC with its propensity to spread within the peritoneal cavity and its good response to intraperitoneal chemotherapy with cisplatin and paclitaxel in optimally debulked disease, renders EOC a promising field for CRS/HIPEC (46-48).

Although large, randomized studies have shown significant efficacy of intraperitoneal chemotherapy in EOC, it has not been fully adopted in daily clinical practice, mainly because of its toxicity, complexity, and heterogeneity of delivery (48-51). While some trials exploring the role of alternative regimens for intraperitoneal chemotherapy closed early due to unacceptable rate of complications (52), some studies have shown meaningful improvement in survival with acceptable morbidity and mortality prompting an interest in repeat CRS with HIPEC (53). The benefit of HIPEC over IP catheter based chemotherapy potentially relates to more uniform distribution of the perfusate at the time of surgery, synergistic effect of heat on the action of chemotherapeutic agent, and the lack of complications noted from placement of an indwelling catheter (54).

In a single-center Italian study, 47 patients with EOC (including 25 with recurrent disease) underwent CRS and HIPEC (55). About 87.3% underwent complete CRS, with a major complication rate of 21.2% and a mortality rate of 4.2%. Mean overall survival was 30.4 months, with a mean disease free survival of 27.4 months. They noted that their morbidity/mortality rates and survival outcomes were

similar to earlier series of Raspagliesi *et al.*, Cotte *et al.* and Helm *et al.* (56-58).

Pavlov *et al.* published their single center experience of patients with primary as well as recurrent EOC, undergoing CRS/HIPEC (59). With a median disease-free survival of 26.2 months, median overall survival was similar for primary as well as recurrent patients (34.1 *vs.* 40.1 months, $P>0.05$). Most patients (92.8%) underwent complete CRS with a median PCI of 13.4, and morbidity and mortality rate of 17.8% and 1.8% respectively. The authors found their results comparable with a single-institution Spanish experience of 33 EOC patients, 19 primary and 14 recurrent, undergoing CRS/HIPEC for peritoneal carcinomatosis (60). Patients with complete CRS obtained survival rates of 63% at 5 years in recurrent ovarian cancer and 60% in primary ovarian cancer. Major determinants of survival were completeness of cytoreduction and negative lymph nodes.

A review by Chua *et al.* of 19 studies each including at least 10 or more patients, noted overall median survival from 22 to 64 months following treatment with CRS/HIPEC, disease-free survival ranging from 10 to 57 months and 5-year survival rate ranging from 12% to 66% in patients achieving optimal debulking, with acceptable morbidity and mortality (61). Similarly, a multi-institutional study from Italy that included 56 patients with a median PCI of 15.2, reported a procedure-related mortality of 5.3% and a severe morbidity rate of 26.3% (62). The median overall survival was 25.7 months while the progression-free survival was 10.8 months. ECOG status, preoperative serum albumin and completeness of cytoreduction were found to

be independent prognostic factors of disease progression. Another observation was the similar overall survival of both platinum-sensitive and platinum-resistant EOC, questioning the exception of platinum-resistant recurrent disease for CRS/HIPEC.

Fagotti *et al.*, in their single-institution prospective study, analyzed 41 patients with recurrent platinum-sensitive EOC that underwent CRS and oxaliplatin-based HIPEC (63). A disease free survival of 24 months and overall survival of 38 months was noted for the 25 patients with at least 18-month follow-up. Major complication rate was 34.8% with no mortality reported. The authors concluded that in recurrent, platinum-sensitive EOC patients, the use of CRS plus HIPEC represents a safe option, with improved survival rates compared to chemotherapy alone or surgery with standard chemotherapy. Moreover, this group demonstrated that repeat CRS with HIPEC achieved the same rate of disease free survival as compared to primary CRS, thereby demonstrating, that in optimally selected platinum-sensitive EOC patients, the chances for obtaining a meaningful disease-free interval are substantial, even after recurrent disease.

The issue of CRS/HIPEC in platinum resistant EOC patients was addressed by a larger prospective multicenter study from France (53). This study included 246 EOC patients with both platinum resistant and sensitive disease, 92.2% of whom had a complete CRS. An overall median survival of 48.9 months was noted; not significantly different for patients with platinum-resistant persistent or recurrent disease and for patients with platinum sensitive disease (48 *vs.* 52 months, $P>0.5$). Median PCI was 10.8. In patients with PCI less than 10, the completeness of CRS was the strongest prognostic indicator, while in those with PCI above 10, performance status was the only independent predictor of survival. Mortality of 0.37% and morbidity (grade III or IV) of 11.6% reported in this series, was much lower than that in other studies, likely because of the low overall PCI of patients and the extensive institutional experience accrued by the two centers from which data was derived. Given that chemotherapy alone for the treatment of recurrent disease rarely results in median overall survival of greater than 30 months, especially in platinum-resistant disease (44,64), the authors recommend CRS/HIPEC for recurrent ovarian cancer (platinum sensitive as well as resistant), in patients with a low PCI score and in those with high PCI score and good performance status. As an update, a larger collaborative 13-institution analysis of 566 patients from the FROGHI group (French Oncologic and Gynecologic HIPEC), 474 of who had recurrent EOC,

showed similar findings. Complete CRS was achieved in 74.9% of patients (65). Mortality and major morbidity rates were 0.8% and 31.3%, respectively. The median overall survival was 45.7 months for patients with recurrent EOC with no significant difference in overall survival between patients with platinum sensitive and with platinum resistant recurrence.

Despite the above studies showing benefit of CRS/HIPEC in recurrent EOC, no prospective randomized data exist to confirm the role of addition of HIPEC to CRS. Several experts have therefore advocated for prospective randomized control trials to study the role of HIPEC in primary as well as recurrent EOC (66,67). Currently, there are three ongoing randomized clinical trials (DESKTOP III, GOG 213, Dutch SOCceR trial) investigating the role of CRS with or without adjuvant chemotherapy for recurrent ovarian cancer but there are no large scale, multi-institutional randomized clinical trials investigating the role of HIPEC for recurrent EOC (68,69). In the only prospective randomized phase III study addressing this issue, investigators from Greece compared patients with advanced EOC who experienced disease recurrence after initial treatment with conservative or debulking surgery and systemic chemotherapy, by randomizing patients to two groups of 60 each based on whether they received CRS or CRS and HIPEC (70). Both groups received systemic chemotherapy after the CRS procedure. Statistically significant improved 3-year survival was shown for the CRS/HIPEC group 75% *vs.* 18% for the CRS only. Additionally, when comparing survival between platinum resistant and sensitive disease for the HIPEC group, no statistically significant difference was noted (26.6 *vs.* 26.8%, respectively); however in CRS only group, significant differences in survival between the two groups of patients was noted (15.2 *vs.* 10.2; $P<0.002$). Survival in both groups correlated with PCI and completeness of cytoreduction.

Even though level I data and RCTs are overall still lacking in the literature, there is a growing body of evidence supporting the role of CRS and HIPEC in improving survival for selected patients with recurrent EOC, irrespective of platinum sensitivity, and with acceptable morbidity and mortality (Table 5). The completeness of cytoreduction, disease burden and time to recurrence has been demonstrated to be significant factors determining overall survival.

Mesothelioma

Malignant peritoneal mesothelioma is a rare and aggressive tumor that arises from the mesothelial cells of the

Table 5 Outcomes after repeat CRS/HIPEC for ovarian primaries

Author (citation)	Study type	Year	No. of patients	PCI	Median overall survival (months)	Median disease free interval (months)	Median follow-up (months)	Morbidity (grade 3 and 4)	Mortality	CC 0-1
Bakrin <i>et al.</i> (53)	P	2012	246	10.6 (mean)	48.9	12.8	NA	11.6%	0.4%	92.2%
Di Giorgio <i>et al.</i> (55)	P	2008	47	14.9 (mean)	24.0	20.0	NA	21.3%	4.2%	100.0%
Raspagliesi <i>et al.</i> (56)	R	2006	40	NA	41.4	23.9	26.1	5.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Cotte <i>et al.</i> (57)	P	2007	81	NA	28.4	19.2	47.1	13.6%	2.5%	80.2%
Helm <i>et al.</i> (58)	R	2007	18	NA	31.0	NA	16.2 (mean)	100.0%	5.6%	83.3%
Pavlov <i>et al.</i> (59)	R	2009	56	13.4 (mean)	34.1	26.2	56.0 (mean)	17.8%	1.8%	92.8%
Rufián <i>et al.</i> (60)	R	2006	33	NA	48.0	NA	NA	36.0%	0.0%	85.0%
Deraco <i>et al.</i> (62)	R	2012	56	15.2 (median)	25.7	10.8	23.1	26.3%	5.3%	96.4%
Fagotti <i>et al.</i> (63)	R	2011	41	6.0 (median)	38.0	25.0	29.0	34.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Bakrin <i>et al.</i> (65)	R	2013	566	8.5 (median)	45.7	NA	40.0	31.3%	0.8%	92.7%

CRS, cytoreductive surgery; HIPEC, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy; P, prospective; R, retrospective; PCI, peritoneal cancer index; CC, completeness of cytoreduction; NA, not available.

peritoneum and has a strong relationship with asbestos exposure (71,72). It accounts for approximately 30% of all mesotheliomas, with an estimated incidence of 400 new cases per year in the US (73,74). There are three major histopathological subtypes, each with significant difference in prognosis: epithelial, sarcomatoid and biphasic type (75-80). Classically, diffuse malignant peritoneal mesothelioma (DMPM) has been linked with a grave prognosis, with a median survival of about 12 months. Systemic chemotherapy including chemotherapeutic drugs and pemetrexed which have been used in pleural mesothelioma, have been applied to patients with DMPM with only a modest survival benefit (median overall survival 10 to 26.8 months), largely due to resistance of the cells to the cytotoxic action of these agents (81-84). In recent years however, comprehensive treatment with CRS and HIPEC has resulted in improved outcomes, with a median survival of 52-92 months and 5-year survival rate of 39-63%, as compared with 9-12 months in historic series treated by palliative surgery and systemic chemotherapy (75,85-89). Due to the rarity of the disease, data regarding prognosis have been derived mainly from single- and multi-institutional series with no randomized trials to elucidate the optimum treatment strategy. As a result, there are no established standards of care for patients with this condition. Ongoing research is further attempting to identify molecular features that can correlate with improved response to treatment (90,91), however until

improved treatment strategies are proven to be beneficial, treatment for patients with DMPM has been based largely on consensus guidelines (92). Despite relatively encouraging results of aggressive loco-regional treatment with maximal cytoreduction, disease recurrence occurs in more than half the patients (75,85-89). In a majority of these patients, treatment failure is largely isolated to the peritoneal cavity (93). This has created an interest in repeat CRS/HIPEC for selected patients who develop recurrence.

In one of the earliest studies, Golse *et al.* reported outcomes of 30 patients undergoing repeat CRS/HIPEC for isolated peritoneal recurrences, 3 of who had mesothelioma (11). Median interval between initial and second-time CRS with HIPEC was 22 months; most patients underwent a complete CRS with a major morbidity rate of 40% and a mortality rate of 3.3%.

In their study of 79 patients undergoing iterative CRS, Chua *et al.* included 9 patients with a diagnosis of DMPM (94). Although perioperative outcomes were not individually analyzed for mesothelioma patients, no mortality and a 41% major morbidity rate was observed in the iterative CRS/HIPEC group. The median, 3- and 5-year survival was 57 months, 80% and 27% respectively. Lower age, interval from primary to repeat CRS/HIPEC of greater than 18 months, administration of HIPEC and lesser number of bowel resections were identified as independent predictors of improved overall survival.

Table 6 Outcomes after repeat CRS/HIPEC for mesothelioma

Author (citation)	Study type	Year	N	PCI	Median overall survival (months)	Median disease free survival (months)	Median follow-up (months)	Morbidity (grade 3 and 4)	Mortality	CC 0-1
Magge <i>et al.</i> (75)	P	2014	65	12 (median)	46.2	13.9	37.0	35.0%	6.0%	100.0%
Chua <i>et al.</i> (80)	R	2011	26	14 (median)	NA (12 patients have survived more than 5 years)	NA	54.0	23.1%	0.0%	92.3%
Brigand <i>et al.</i> (86)	P	2006	15	NA	35.6	NA	46.7	40.0%	0.0%	73.3%
Feldman <i>et al.</i> (87)	R	2003	49	NA	92.0	17.0	28.3	25.0%	NA	46.9%
Deraco <i>et al.</i> (88)	R	2006	49	NA	5-year 57%	39.7	20.3 (mean)	12.0%	0.0%	NA
Wong <i>et al.</i> (95)	R	2014	29	16 (median)	41.2	NA	12.2	65.0%	4.0%	78.0%
Ihemelandu <i>et al.</i> (96)	R	2015	44	18 (mean)	54.0	NA	28.0	2.3%	0.0%	46.6%

CRS, cytoreductive surgery; HIPEC, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy; P, prospective; R, retrospective; N, number of patients; PCI, peritoneal cancer index; CC, completeness of cytoreduction; NA, not available.

In a recent small report by Wong *et al.*, 8 patients underwent repeat CRS/HIPEC, with one of them undergoing a third HIPEC and another undergoing additional three iterative procedures (95). All of the patients that underwent a repeat HIPEC had a complete CRS and a PCI score less than 20. Median overall survival was higher for the repeat HIPEC group at 80 *vs.* 27.2 months for the single HIPEC group while the postoperative complication rate was comparable with 50% for the repeat HIPEC group *vs.* 65% in the single HIPEC group. PCI <20 and low completeness of cytoreduction scores were independently associated with improved outcomes.

In another study published by the Ihemelandu *et al.*, 44 (21.5%) of 205 patients that initially underwent CRS/HIPEC, had a repeat procedure for DMPM (96). The median overall survival of patients undergoing an iterative CRS and HIPEC was 54 months versus 77 months following an initial CRS and HIPEC (P=0.96), with a low rate (2.3%) of major morbidity and no perioperative mortalities. Histopathological type, HIPEC regimen employed, near complete cytoreduction, female sex, age and absence of postoperative complications were identified as independent predictors of overall survival on multivariate analysis. The authors concluded that repeat CRS/HIPEC

can be offered to select patients and offers survival benefit if near complete cytoreduction is obtained.

Huang *et al.* recently reported their outcomes of patients with DMPM undergoing CRS/HIPEC. Ten of 44 patients that underwent an initial procedure underwent a second CRS/HIPEC (3). The median survival for those who only had one CRS/HIPEC was 22.0 months in comparison to 62 months for patients undergoing iterative procedures, with a median time of 15.2 months between the first and second operations. Major complication rate was 60% with no mortalities reported for iterative CRS/HIPEC. The authors recommended repeat CRS/HIPEC in selected patients with recurrent DMPM and referral to specialized centers with significant experience in treating such patients.

In our study reviewing the data on repeat CRS/HIPEC, there were 7 patients with recurrent DMPM and the median overall survival for this subgroup was 52.9 months after both procedures, with an observed additional median survival benefit of 21.8 (range, 3.1-44.1) months from the second HIPEC (10). A 48% complication rate was observed in patients undergoing repeat HIPEC, similar to the 35% initial complication rate.

Despite the benefit of repeat CRS/HIPEC for DMPM, robust data to establish suitable criteria for selection of

patients likely to benefit from an iterative procedure are lacking. Given the rarity of the disease, carefully designed multicenter trials are necessary to elucidate this issue. However, repeat CRS/HIPEC does hold promise for select patients with recurrent disease (*Table 6*).

Conclusions

Despite the variability of the above studies, they all demonstrate that repeat CRS/HIPEC is a feasible and safe procedure with similar morbidity and mortality as the initial cytoreduction. Repeat CRS/HIPEC offers encouraging survival results in patients with low volume, isolated peritoneal recurrence and at least a year-long disease free interval from the initial CRS/HIPEC. Therefore selection criteria for surgical candidates should be predominantly based on favorable tumor biology and ability to achieve a complete macroscopic CRS. Further multi-institutional trials are needed to establish standardized criteria for the management of patients with recurrent peritoneal carcinomatosis.

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Footnote

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