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SAINT FRANCIS INTRODUCES NEW TREATMENT FOR ABDOMINAL CANCER

Heat and Chemotherapy Used To Treat Advanced Stages of Abdominal Cancer

(Hartford, CT) – Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center is the first in the region to offer a breakthrough treatment that is offering hope and a better quality of life for patients with abdominal cancer.

The procedure, called *Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemoperfusion* (HIPEC), is a unique combination of heat and chemotherapy used to treat patients with cancer that has spread to the abdominal cavity, typically from primary colon, appendix, gastrointestinal or ovarian cancer. It is also used to treat *Pseudomyxoma Peritonei*, a rare aggressive disorder characterized by the accumulation of mucus-secreting tumor cells in the abdominal region.

“A great benefit to the HIPEC procedure is the improvement of drug absorption to the site of the tumor in the lining of the abdominal cavity and the effect of minimal exposure to the rest of the body. As a result, the patient may not experience the normal side effects of chemotherapy,” said Jonathan Sporn, MD, Chief of Hematology and Oncology at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

“Clinical studies show the HIPEC procedure to be significantly more effective than surgery alone. It offers patients an improved prognosis and quality of life,” adds Dr. James Frank, MD, Director of Surgical Oncology at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. “We are excited to be able to offer this leading-edge technology for patients with advanced abdominal cancer.”

A potential candidate for this type of procedure will undergo a variety of staging and diagnostic studies in order to show that the cancer is limited to the abdomen’s inner lining. The procedure entails a complete surgical tumor removal from all surfaces inside the abdomen. Immediately following tumor removal, a heated sterile solution containing chemotherapeutic agents is circulated throughout the abdominal cavity for a period of

ninety minutes using a system called the ThermoChem HT™, developed by ThermaSolutions, Inc. The ThermoChem delivers chemotherapy directly to the abdominal cavity and precisely manages the temperature and flow rate of the solution.

Saint Francis performed its first HIPEC procedure in mid-January.

Founded in 1897, Saint Francis is a major teaching hospital licensed for 617 acute inpatient beds and 65 bassinets and is the largest Catholic hospital in New England.

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