VCU Massey Cancer Center is now offering HIPEC for advanced abdominal cancers

VCU Massey Cancer Center’s Leopoldo Fernandez, M.D., is one of the few surgical oncologists in the state to offer HIPEC for the treatment of advanced or complex abdominal cancers, including:

- Colorectal cancer
- Ovarian cancer
- Mesothelioma
- Pseudomyxoma peritonei
- Appendiceal cancer
- Stomach cancer
- Low-grade sarcoma
- Peritoneal inclusion cysts

HIPEC is a complex procedure involving cytoreduction surgery followed by a heated chemotherapy solution circulated continuously throughout the abdominal cavity. The chemotherapy solution helps kill any remaining cancer cells and reduces the risk of cancer recurrence. There is substantial evidence showing HIPEC is an effective treatment for several gastrointestinal cancers.

HIPEC patient care is coordinated by nurse navigator Ashley Olive, R.N. For appointments and referrals to Massey’s HIPEC program, please call (804) 827-7262 or email HIPEC@vcuhealth.org.
Leopoldo Fernandez, M.D., is a surgical oncologist at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Massey Cancer Center and assistant professor in the Department of Surgery’s Division of Surgical Oncology at the VCU School of Medicine. Dr. Fernandez brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the surgical oncology team, specializing in gastrointestinal cancers including liver and pancreas, laparoscopic surgery and intraperitoneal chemotherapy.

With the addition of Dr. Fernandez to the team, VCU Massey Cancer Center is now offering HIPEC (hipermthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy) for the treatment of advanced abdominal cancers that have spread through the peritoneal cavity. This complex procedure involves cytoreduction surgery followed by a heated chemotherapy solution circulated throughout the abdominal cavity continuously for up to two hours. There is substantial evidence showing HIPEC is an effective treatment for several gastrointestinal cancers. Dr. Fernandez is excited to bring HIPEC to Massey, which is now one of few cancer care providers in the state to offer it.

Dr. Fernandez has been published in a number of peer-reviewed journals and has presented at a variety of professional meetings, including the Academic Surgical Congress, the Society of Surgical Oncology and the American Association for Cancer Research. Dr. Fernandez is certified by the American Board of Surgery in both general surgery and complex general surgical oncology. He is also a member of the Society of Surgical Oncology and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. He received his medical degree from Universidad Central de Venezuela’s Escuela de Medicina Luis Razetti in Caracas, Venezuela. He then completed his research fellowship and general surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and further pursued a surgical oncology fellowship at VCU Medical Center. Dr. Fernandez also obtained specific training in the management of peritoneal malignancies at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital.

Dr. Fernandez is now accepting patients in Massey Cancer Center’s Dalton Oncology Clinic at the VCU Medical Center downtown.

Dr. Fernandez sees patients in
Dalton Oncology Clinic, North Hospital, VCU Medical Center
Appointments and referrals: (804) 827-7262 or hipec@vcuhealth.org