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1 **Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC): Should we look closer at the**  
2 **microenvironment?**

3  
4  
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20 **HIGHLIGHTS:**

21 There is no consensus on hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) modalities.

22 HIPEC has an impact on the whole tumour microenvironment.

23 HIPEC has both negative and positive effect on tumor environment and its anti-tumoral activity.  
24

25 **ABSTRACT**

26 The age of cancer as an isolated single-cell concept is now behind us. It is now established that  
27 epithelial ovarian cancer, like other cancers, interacts with the healthy bystander cells to  
28 influence them and takes advantage of their nutritional, immunological, disseminating and other  
29 capacities. This interaction has become a therapeutic target, as shown by the numerous studies  
30 on this subject. Intraperitoneal chemo-hyperthermia has been part of the therapeutic  
31 armamentarium for some time yet its efficiency in ovarian cancer has only been recently proven  
32 in a randomized controlled trial. However, its therapeutic performance is not revolutionary and  
33 epithelial ovarian cancer maintains a high mortality. In this review, we studied the impact of  
34 HIPEC on the microenvironment and vice versa to determine whether it could be the key to this  
35 lukewarm efficacy. We began by exploring the modalities of HIPEC and establishing the  
36 reasons that make this treatment topical. Then, we examined its impact on each element of the  
37 tumour environment to obtain a global view of the resistance mechanisms at work in HIPEC.

38 **Keywords:** Ovarian cancer / Hyperthermic intra peritoneal chemotherapy/ Survival /  
39 Microenvironment / Resistance

40

41 **I- Introduction**

42 Hyperthermic intra peritoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) is a treatment option for patient with  
43 abdominal cancer and peritoneal carcinosis, without distant metastasis. It is a combination of  
44 three procedures: intra peritoneal drug release, chemotherapy and hyperthermia. It has mainly  
45 been evaluated in peritoneal carcinomatosis in colorectal, mucinous appendicular  
46 adenocarcinoma and ovarian cancer. In the latter, its benefits in terms of overall survival and  
47 recurrence-free survival have been showed by van Driel et al. [1] in the first prospective  
48 randomized controlled trial, in 2018. Unfortunately, the survival length remains short with a  
49 median recurrence free survival of 14.2 months in stage 3 patients with ovarian cancer

50 undergoing total cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC [2]. There must be an underlying  
51 mechanism explaining the resistance of cancer cells to HIPEC.

52 It has been demonstrated that the tumor cells strongly interact with their microenvironment  
53 [3]. Tumoral colonization and proliferation are subject to the permissiveness of the  
54 microenvironment of the targeted organ. As a result, the interaction between disseminated  
55 malignant tumor cells and their microenvironment is a key mechanism in their progression and  
56 metastasis. The tumor microenvironment (TME) is defined as the cellular and molecular  
57 components and the mechanical stresses that surround the tumor cells and interact with them  
58 [4]. The cellular component of the TME includes for instance stromal cells such as fibroblasts,  
59 cells of the immune system and vascular cells. Recently, few studies reported an influence of  
60 TME cells on the sensitivity of cancer cells to hyperthermia [5]. Here, we aimed to review the  
61 possible role of the TME in the resistance to HIPEC.

62

## 63 II- From hyperthermia to HIPEC

### 64 1. Hyperthermia

65 Hyperthermia therapy is defined by the rising of the human temperature over 38°C.  
66 Hyperthermia over 43° was found to have a direct cytotoxic effect *in vitro* in animals[6]. Each  
67 cell has a different sensitivity to hyperthermia yet there seems to be a clear thermic threshold.  
68 Over 43°C, an exponential cell death occurs. The time needed to obtain this cell death, is  
69 correlated to the temperature used. When diminishing the temperature of one degree Celsius,  
70 the exposure time must be multiplied by two between 42.5°C and 47°C [7] . There is actually  
71 no consensus on the time of exposure and the temperature. In the recent trial by van Driel's  
72 team [1], an intraabdominal temperature of 40°C (104°F) was maintained by circulation of the  
73 heated saline during 90 minutes whereas in Lee et al. study [8] they used a dextrose solution  
74 1.5% at 42°C for 90 minutes.

75           Hyperthermia is all about dose. *In vivo*, in a healthy tissue, hyperthermia will increase  
76 tissue oxygenation by raising blood flow through decreasing peripheral vascular resistance by  
77 mechanical dilation via the smooth muscle cells that cover the microveins [9]. When the  
78 temperature exceeds this threshold, on the contrary, the blood flow decreases via fluid shift  
79 between interstitial compartments micro-thrombosis and endothelial swelling, resulting in  
80 decreased tissue oxygenation and therefore cell death. Damages caused by moderate  
81 hyperthermia depends on the type of tissue [10]. Nevertheless, in tumoral tissue, vascular  
82 architecture is complex and anarchic with territories in constitutive hypoxia, de facto increasing  
83 the sensitivity of the tissue to hyperthermia.

84           Thus in oncology, whole-body hyperthermia at temperatures over 41.5°C combined  
85 with chemotherapy for metastatic cancers is also gradually finding its place in oncology [11].

86

## 87           **2. Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy**

88           As ovarian carcinoma is essentially a peritoneal disease, intraperitoneal delivery of  
89 chemotherapy enhances drug delivery at the peritoneal surface with theoretical low systemic  
90 passage and may improve outcomes. Thus, chemotherapy can be delivered directly through the  
91 peritoneum. A Cochrane's meta-analysis included 2119 women and 9 randomized studies  
92 comparing intravenous (IV) and intraperitoneal (IP) administration of adjuvant chemotherapy.  
93 Intraperitoneal chemotherapy provides a significant gain in overall survival (OS) (8 studies),  
94 with a hazard ratio (HR) of 0.81 (95% CI 0.72-0.90). This gain in OS is independent of the  
95 number of drugs used or the dose.

96           The phase III randomized trial of intraperitoneal chemotherapy in ovarian cancer from 2006  
97 [12] compared paclitaxel 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/24h on day one (D1) and cisplatin 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on D1 to  
98 paclitaxel 135 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/24h IV on D1, cisplatin 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IP on D2 and paclitaxel 60 mg/ m<sup>2</sup>IP  
99 on D8. Median progression free survival (PFS) was better in the intra-peritoneal (IP) group but

100 with elevated impact on the quality of life mainly related to the presence of the peritoneal  
101 catheter. Many studies have searched for new protocols to increase the tolerance of the  
102 peritoneal approach [13,14] mainly by lowering IP Cisplatin doses. Yet, despite these data, IPC  
103 has not been accepted as a standard treatment. In order to reduce this toxicity and retain the  
104 efficacy, the gynecology oncology group (GOG) designed the GOG-252[15], a randomized  
105 controlled trial comparing totally IV route chemotherapy, the former standard treatment with  
106 IP Cisplatin and IP Paclitaxel and a third new arm supposed to reduce IP toxicity with IP  
107 Carboplatin and IV Paclitaxel; each arm receiving additional treatment with Bevacizumab. No  
108 difference in PFS or OS was found. Nevertheless, the authors suggested that Bevacizumab may  
109 have compromised the efficacy of the Cisplatin IP arm. Though, considering these data, IP route  
110 has little support from the scientific community.

111

### 112 **3. Intraoperative intraperitoneal chemotherapy with hyperthermia - HIPEC.**

113 The pharmacokinetic advantage of intraperitoneal chemotherapy is the most important  
114 rational for HIPEC in peritoneal surface malignancy. The objective of intraoperative exposure  
115 of the peritoneal cavity is to free itself from possible digestive adhesions that could exclude  
116 certain territories and increase toxicity. Furthermore, extended resections of the peritoneum and  
117 or organs covered by peritoneum do not modify HIPEC pharmacodynamics [16]. Penetration  
118 of chemotherapy agents are ideally measured by the area under curve (AUC) which is an  
119 integral of concentration over time. An AUC ratio of intraperitoneal concentration to plasma  
120 concentration time reflects how much of the drug is preserved in the peritoneal cavity and how  
121 much was absorbed by the systemic circulation, the objective is therefore a high AUC ratio.

122 The agent has to be of large molecular weight and water-soluble, rapidly cleared from the  
123 systemic circulation, potentiated by hyperthermia, and must have proven its efficacy in ovarian  
124 cancer. Platinum salts have been mainly explored in HIPEC. They have in common the

125 character of potentiation of hyperthermia [17]. Carboplatin is a well-known and effective IV  
126 chemotherapy, recommended as a neoadjuvant agent combined with paclitaxel. Its advantage  
127 over other platinum agents in intraperitoneal administration is its higher molecular weight and  
128 lower renal toxicity. Still it suffers from a low peritoneal to plasma AUC around 15-20 [18],  
129 and therefore, 7 times more platinum could be detected after Cisplatin treatment than after  
130 equimolar treatment with carboplatin [19] both in cultured cells *in vitro* and in peritoneal tumors  
131 *in vivo*. This is mainly because of the high liposolubility of Cisplatin resulting in an  
132 advantageous peritoneal/plasma AUC ratio ( $20\pm 6$ ). While the price per weight of the two  
133 molecules is the same, administered doses of Cisplatin varies from 50 to 120 mg/ m<sup>2</sup>  
134 respectively 300 to 1,000 mg/ m<sup>2</sup> for Carboplatin. However, pharmacokinetic studies favor the  
135 use of Carboplatin because its peritoneal clearance is 3 times lower, thus explaining perhaps its  
136 better tolerance in IPC. Washing the peritoneal cavity at the end of the procedure frees us from  
137 this difference. In the phase 3 randomized OVHIPEC trial by van Driel et al. [1] which provides  
138 the basis for the most recent recommendations of gynecological societies; surgery followed 3  
139 IV chemotherapy treatments (carboplatin AUC 6 and paclitaxel 175 mg/ m<sup>2</sup>) and the  
140 experimental arm consisted in surgery plus HIPEC (Cisplatin 100 mg/ m<sup>2</sup> at 40°C delivered in  
141 three doses with nephroprotection by thiosulfate).

142 In addition to the extreme variability of the drugs and temperatures used, there is no  
143 consensus on the HIPEC technique. In a recent review of the current practice in Spanish  
144 hospitals [20], 65% of the centers administered HIPEC using a closed system, as opposed to  
145 the open system used for example in the Van Driel study, where the debulked cavity is left  
146 open. 53% of the surgeons indicated that the infusion temperature of the intraperitoneal  
147 chemotherapy solution(s) was 42 °C. Median time of exposure was 90 minutes. The cost it  
148 takes to perform HIPEC, excluding the price of running the machine and chemotherapy

149 agents, was mainly above \$4000. Figure 1 is a schematic representation of an open coliseum  
150 HIPEC identical to that used in the Van Driel trial [1].

151 *Figure 1 : HIPEC open technique : Coliseum.*

152 Although HIPEC has been used in peritoneal carcinosis for more than 30 years, its use is  
153 struggling to find its place. In ovarian cancer, even if the Van Driel trial is a major argument in  
154 the decision to offer this therapy to patients, it seems that there is no unanimity, mainly because  
155 the gain in survival remains moderate.

156 It now seems fundamental to reflect on the mechanisms of resistance that could explain this  
157 phenomenon, and direct us towards future directions of therapeutic potentiation.

158 *Table 1: HIPEC trials through the last 10 years.*

159

### 160 **III- Role of the microenvironment in HIPEC**

161 The ovarian tumor microenvironment consists of structural extracellular matrix (ECM) and  
162 cellular network. The latter can be divided in endogenous or recruited immune cells, supportive  
163 stromal cells such as fibroblasts, endothelial cells and adipose tissue[4]. It has been shown that  
164 cancer promotes an inflammatory microenvironment [21]. Chronic inflammation, caused by  
165 the proliferation of tumor cells, leads to a paradoxical reaction of the microenvironment that  
166 will lead to the proliferation of cancer cells. The aim of this literature review is to describe the  
167 interactions of the microenvironment with cancer cells during HIPEC.

168 *Figure 2: Biocellular mechanisms at work in the ovarian tumor microenvironment during*  
169 *HIPEC.*

170

#### 171 **1. Role of the extracellular matrix**

172 Non-cellular components of the tumour microenvironment are composed of the ECM,  
173 ECM remodelling enzymes and growth factors. ECM is a specific component of the tumour



174 microenvironment that plays a role in cell attachment, survival, communication, spreading,  
175 migration, proliferation and multicellular organisation by a complex mix of architectural,  
176 mechanical and biochemical signals [22]. Components of the ECM are called the matrisome,  
177 and are grouped into two families: proteoglycans and fibrous proteins [23]. Peptides structures  
178 and activities are inherently thermolabile, thermodynamic considerations drive the assembly of  
179 these structures (e.g. hydrogen bonding, electrostatic interactions, van der Waals interactions,  
180 and the hydrophobic effect) and most proteins are therefore temperature sensitive.

181 Collagen I is one of the main component of the fibrous proteins. Hepatocellular cancer cells  
182 (HCC), exposed to a sublethal hyperthermia, and then cultured with collagen I showed  
183 accelerated migration and highest invasive profile [24]. Heat shock protein (HSP) 47 is a  
184 chaperone of collagen I and its precursors and form a complex in the endoplasmic reticulum in  
185 order to protect it from thermal alteration during the transit to cellular surface [25]. The  
186 relationship between HSP 47 and collagen I in the response of ovarian cancer to hyperthermia  
187 has never been explored before. Could low level of HSP47 be a marker of sensitivity to HIPEC?

188 Proteoglycans are the second type of protein composing the ECM. Among them, versican is a  
189 large chondroitine sulfate proteoglycan that belongs to the aggrecan family. Elevated versican  
190 levels have been found in many malignant tumours [26]. In epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC),  
191 higher levels of versican in the tumoral stroma are associated with a poor prognostic [27].  
192 Recently, in a cohort study of peritoneal carcinosis patients treated by HIPEC, high level of  
193 versican was associated with a better prognosis, suggesting that the versican could be a  
194 predictive marker of the response to HIPEC [28].

195

## 196 **2. Cellular microenvironment**

197 Cellular microenvironment is constituted of immune, stromal, endothelial, nervous system cells  
198 and organ specific cells like mesothelial cells in peritoneal metastasis or epiploon's adipocytes,

199 and cancer stem cells. They interact with OCC by direct cell-to-cell contact or by secreting  
200 soluble factors (chemokines).

201

202 **i) Mesenchymal stem cells**

203 Mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) are characterized by their three main attributes: stemness,  
204 multipotency and self-renewal. They can be isolated from umbilical cord, bone marrow, adipose  
205 tissue, peripheral blood, spleen and skin[29]. They can differentiate into cancer associated  
206 fibroblasts (CAF), pericytes, osteocytes, adipocytes, chondrocytes and smooth muscle cells in  
207 the tumor micro-environment (TME). Their role is to migrate toward damaged tissues and  
208 contribute to repair it by cellular support, angiogenesis and modulation of immune cell  
209 functions[30]. MSC are drawn to inflammatory environments, such as ovarian cancer, and are  
210 therefore numerous in that cancer [31,32]. In line with Paget's theory [33], comparing the cancer  
211 cell to a seed and the tissue to soil, MSC would be the fertilizer.

212 When MSC extracted from bone marrow are exposed to fever range hyperthermia, and co-  
213 cultured with macrophage, they switched the profiles of macrophages from pro-inflammatory  
214 to anti-inflammatory, increasing secretion of interleukin 10 and lowering tumor necrosis factor  
215 alpha [34]. These changes are mediated by heat shock factor (HSF) 1's translocation into the  
216 nucleus. HSF-1 is a protein which in its stable form is located in the cytoplasm and bound to  
217 HSP 90, HSP 70 and TCP1. In the event of heat stress, HSF-1 releases these molecules whose  
218 role is to fold up heat-altered proteins. Once released, HSF-1 passes into the nucleus and  
219 activates the transcription of anti-inflammatory proteins, notably cyclo-oxygenases (COX) and  
220 prostaglandins synthases (PTGES) but also program death ligand one (PDL-1) (see Figure 2).  
221 Finally prostaglandins cause a drop in TNF-alpha secretion and an increase in interleukin 10,  
222 orienting macrophages towards an anti-inflammatory profile [34]. In addition, PDL-1 secretion  
223 decreases T cell activity.

224 During hyperthermia, Lis et al showed that after co-culture with MSC in transwell, OCC  
225 developed a thermo-resistance at 42 degrees [35]. This relationship appears to be mediated by  
226 SDF 1 and its C-X-C chemokine receptor type 4 (CXCR4) receptor whose inhibition by an anti-  
227 CXCR4 antibody reverses the survival gain [35] (see Figure 2).

228 Concerning chemotherapy, the work of Pasquier et al.[21] showed that transwell co-culture of  
229 MSC with ovarian cancer cells (OCC) decreased OCC mortality, that this MSC-OCC  
230 collaboration was mediated by CCL2 and CCL5 and then in an autocrine loop OCC-OCC by  
231 IL-6. These results were verified *in vivo* in a mouse model with an anti IL6 antibody that  
232 restored sensitivity to chemotherapy. Recently Wang et al. have highlighted that MSC derived  
233 CAF were able to induce an epithelial to mesenchymal transition in OCC by secreting IL-6,  
234 through the JAK2/STAT3 pathway, enhancing paclitaxel resistance [36] (see Figure 2).

235 Surgical stress and heat shock increase secretion of IL-6 and IL-8 [37] and thus blood levels  
236 of IL-6 are increased during HIPEC in ovarian cancer [38]. As it happens, IL-6 and IL-8 are  
237 two interleukines involved in MSC's recruitment [39]. Further research should be done to  
238 investigate whether hyperthermia leads to recruitment to MSC since hyperthermia induces  
239 secretion of IL-6 and IL-8. It seems that MSC could participate to the unsatisfactory results of  
240 HIPEC sometimes observed in ovarian cancer.

241

## 242 ii) Immune system

243 Ovarian cancer is an immunogenic disease and host's immunity influences the prognostic.  
244 Indeed, ovarian tumours are invaded by immune cells: tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes. Many  
245 intermediates of the immune system thus constitute markers of survival or response to  
246 chemotherapy [40]. Fever which is by definition an increase of body temperature, is an archaic  
247 defense mechanism that increases survival against infections by mobilizing the immune system.  
248 Therefore, HIPEC may interfere with this complex system.

249

250 a. Adaptative immunity

251 **T cells**

252 T cells have in common the cluster of differentiation 3 (CD 3+). According to Zhang et al. there  
253 is a lymphocyte infiltration in EOC in 55% of cases. Furthermore, the 5-year survival of patients  
254 with tumor infiltrated lymphocytes (TILs) is 38% compared to 4.5% in patients whose tumors  
255 do not have TILs upon pathological examination. [41]. Among T cells, CD8+ T (cytotoxic) T  
256 cells and CD4+ T (helper) cells have also been confirmed as prognostic markers [42].

257 Hyperthermia leads to active recruitment of lymphocytes in veinules and lymph nodes. On the  
258 lymphocyte side, this phenomenon is mediated by L-selectin and  $\alpha 4\beta 7$  integrin. On the  
259 endothelial side the adhesion dependent on lymph nodes adressins (PNAd) [43] and mucosal  
260 adressin cell adhesion molecule-1 (MAdCAM-1)[44]. Moreover, as we have already seen,  
261 HIPEC and surgical stress leads to an increase of IL-6 [38] which is known to increase the  
262 expression of P-selectin and E-selectin in endothelial cells permitting adherence, tethering  
263 rolling and finally through ICAM-1, transmigration of CD8+ T cells in the tissue [45] (see  
264 Figure 2). Further research should be done to investigate whether hyperthermia increases CD8+  
265 migration in the ovarian cancer.

266 Hyperthermia enhances the cytotoxic activity of CD8+ through the expression of granzyme B,  
267 perforin, and interferon  $\gamma$  (IFN $\gamma$ ) [46] and nuclear HSF promotes Fas ligand expression [47]. In  
268 a mice model, targeted inhibition of HSP 90 by novobiocin, suppressed TNF alpha production  
269 by CD4+ cells [48]. GP96 is another thermosensitive chaperone whose activation leads to  
270 priming of T cell response through a CD-91dependent manner [49]. Thus, it would be  
271 interesting to study the ability of HIPEC to potentiate CD8+'s cytotoxicity.

272 T cells also modulate chemoresistance in EOC. Wang et al. showed that, fibroblasts enhance  
273 the efflux of cisplatin through chelation by glutathione and that CD8+ T cells were able to alter  
274 this mechanism through secretion of IFN Gamma, suppressing the chemoresistance[50].

275 In total, we have shown that hyperthermia increases infiltration and cytotoxic activity of LTs.  
276 However, these lymphocytes could also be involved in fibroblast-related chemoresistance.

277

## 278 **B cells**

279 Although T cells are extensively explored in ovarian cancer as predictive markers and for new  
280 therapeutic ways, few studies have highlighted the importance of B cells in ovarian cancer. At  
281 histology, B cells are present within the tumoral tissue to modulate the tumor microenvironment  
282 and its immune response [51]. In ovarian cancer, it seems that low density of plasma cells  
283 CD138+ [52] and high density of naïve B cells and memory B cells combined with CD8+ T  
284 cells correlated with a better prognostic [42].

285 HSP are involved in B cells activation. The HSF-1 complex is functional in activated B cells  
286 only, as no hHSF-1-DNA complex can be detected in naïve B cells exposed to hyperthermia  
287 [53]. HSF-1 released HSP 90 leads to proliferation of B cells and antigen presentation [54] (see  
288 Figure 2).

289 But B cells also act as an immunosuppressive and pro-tumoral actor. In breast cancer, B cells  
290 reduce CD8+ activity and NK cells infiltration [55] and it has been confirmed in ovarian cancer  
291 that the presence of IL-10+ B cells of naïve B-cell phenotype was associated with less cytotoxic  
292 CD8+ T cells, allowing tumour immune tolerance [56]. In this way, the maturation of B-cells  
293 provoked by the heat shock could act as an immune boost.

294

295 b. Innate immunity

## 296 **Macrophages**

297 Monocytes are part of the circulating leukocytes; they differentiate into macrophages when they  
298 leave the circulation. They are actors of innate immunity via phagocytosis but are also antigen  
299 presenters and therefore actors of acquired immunity. Tumor associated macrophages (TAM)  
300 are the most abundant immune related stromal cells in the TME. Macrophages can differentiate  
301 in two subtypes: M2 macrophage has poor antigen-presenting capacity, prevents T-cell  
302 activation, contributes to suppressing dendritic cell (DC) functions, as well as enhances  
303 angiogenesis and metastasis. M1 macrophages are the opposite [57].

304         When TAMs are exposed to cisplatin, they increase their production of the chemokine  
305 CCL20 that activates its receptor CCR6 in OCC triggering EMT[58]. Facing hyperthermia,  
306 macrophages activate the HSF-1 complex. Nuclear HSF-1 promotes IL-10 and its receptor  
307 transcription in macrophages[59]. IL-10 inhibits production of many cytokines, notably IL-1,  
308 IL-6, TNF and PAF that are crucial to its anti-inflammatory activities and its amplification  
309 through different pathways (see Figure 2). Macrophage's functions are increased up to 40° and  
310 then inhibited over 41° in mice [60]. Furthermore, as we have seen previously, hyperthermia  
311 leads to vasodilatation which reduces tissue hypoxia. However, when macrophages are  
312 subjected to hypoxia, they release exosomes that deliver miR-223 to elicit a chemoresistance  
313 phenotype in EOC. HIPEC would prevent this event.

314         Overall, HIPEC via macrophages could have an ambivalent role: on the one hand,  
315 hyperthermia it reduces inflammatory activity via IL10 and on the other, it prevents the  
316 occurrence of chemoresistance.

317

### 318 **Dendritic cells**

319 Dendritic cells (DC) are highly specialized antigen presenting cells. In this manner they can  
320 recognize tumor associated antigens (TAA) and induce specific T-cell effectors. Presence of

321 immature DC at histology is associated with poor outcome [40]. Enhancement of DC activity  
322 or its presentation of TAA has been in the center of many trials[61].  
323 Heat stressed EOC exosomes are able to induce dendritic cell (DC) maturation. Compared to  
324 non-heat stressed tumor exosomes, they contain more HSP 70, more MHC-1 and are more  
325 effective for inducing differentiation of activated monocytes into mature DC [62]. These DCs  
326 can induce the activation of CD4+ and CD8+ T cells to obtain an antitumor immune effect [62].  
327 Similarly, in patients with colorectal cancer treated by local hyperthermia, exosomes derived  
328 from tumor cells are able to stimulate dendritic cells to secrete more IL-6 promoting the  
329 differentiation of Th 17 regulatory T-lymphocytes; resulting in an anti-tumor effect [63]. HSP  
330 70 secreted by the cancer cell after chemical[64] or heat exposure [65] acts like a DC antigen  
331 enhancing immunity against the tumor through Toll Like Receptor (TLR) 4. HSP 90 also  
332 accelerates DC maturation (see Figure 2) [66].  
333 Thus, HIPEC certainly enhances the immune activity of dendritic cells.

334

### 335 **Natural Killer cells**

336 Natural killer (NK) cells are cytotoxic cells that have the capacity of elicit inflammation through  
337 antigen-independent pathways and detect loss of HLA as a signal for activation. Its presence in  
338 ovarian cancer microenvironment is associated with poor prognosis [67].

339 Although debated, it seems that hyperthermia promotes the cytotoxicity of NK cells. HSP 70  
340 in cancer cells increases natural killer lectin-like receptor gene 2D (NKG2D) ligand-receptors  
341 [68]. HSP 70 also stimulates NK cells through expression of NKG2D, CD56 and CD94 (see  
342 Figure 2) [69]. On the contrary, Koga et al. exposed mice to whole body hyperthermia at 42  
343 degrees and showed less expression perforin and granzyme B but identical expression of TNF  
344 cytokines [70].

345 Further studies are needed to establish the exact impact of HIPEC on NK cells.

346

347 **iii) Endothelial cells and microvascular tumoral network**

348 Endothelial cells participate in tumor progression by promoting neo-angiogenesis. Anti-  
349 angiogenic therapies should therefore increase overall survival. However, these treatments are  
350 disappointing given that bevacizumab does not improve survival in ovarian cancer [71]. By  
351 blocking neo-angiogenesis, the tumor evolves in a hypoxic environment and activates  
352 alternative pathways [72].

353 When Sun et al. explored the variation of hypoxia after hyperthermia in various tumor,  
354 they observed that even if the main effect was increasing the oxygenation of tumoral tissue  
355 through vasodilatation, the regions with the highest hypoxia (ie lowest vascularization) indeed  
356 suffered from increased hypoxia after hyperthermia [73]. Therefore, in these areas, endothelial  
357 cells secrete angiocrines particles promoting neo-angiogenesis after hyperthermia [74,75] . This  
358 process then creates vascular niches for tumor progression [76].

359 Moreover, EOC is able to transform the surrounding endothelium in an angiocrine  
360 endothelium [77]. One of the ways for EOC to influence the epithelium is by secreting HSP90.  
361 Secretion of HSP 90 $\alpha$  (one of the two the cytosolic forms) is heat inducible [78]. However it  
362 has been shown that HSP90 is increasing expression of vascular endothelial growth factors  
363 (VEGF) receptors on human endothelial and lymphatic cells (see Figure 2); and thus the  
364 possibility of decreasing this expression with an HSP 90 inhibitor [79]. In this manner, these  
365 data could represent arguments against HIPEC.

366 It seems mandatory to remind that endothelial cells are playing an essential role in  
367 resistance to chemotherapy. For instance, Hoarau-véchet et al, demonstrated that OCC were  
368 able to activate endothelial cells through the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase/Akt pathway [80],  
369 when cocultured with Akt-activated endothelial cells, OCCs developed chemoresistance  
370 through Notch pathway. Therefore, even if the role of endothelial cells in hyperthermia needs



371 to be investigate further, it is clear that they have a real role in resistance to chemotherapy and  
372 they shouldn't be neglected.

373

374 **iv) Adipose stromal cells**

375 The peritoneal cavity contains adipose tissue. The large epiploon, which is a frequent site  
376 of metastasis, is routinely removed during debulking surgery. The peritoneum is bordered on  
377 its outer surface by adipose tissue and the mesos, the nourishing blades of the digestive tract, is  
378 mainly made up of adipose tissue. During debulking surgery, after multiple manipulations of  
379 the omentum before removal, and extended peritonectomy, adipose tissue and adipocytes are  
380 exposed to HIPEC.

381 In OCC, coculture with adipocytes increases chemoresistance to cisplatin and paclitaxel  
382 through the PI3K/Akt signalling pathway, arachidonic acid secretion [81], and miR21 transfer  
383 to OCC[82]. There are actually no data on the effect of HIPEC on adipose tissue.

384 Fever range heat exposure induces lipolysis in rat's adipocytes [83] meaning a release  
385 of free fatty acid (FFA) locally and in blood stream. However, these FFA constitute an energy  
386 reserve, contributing to tumour growth and metastasis [84].

387 Moreover, adipose tissue responds differently to heat depending on its location [83].  
388 Thus, more metabolically active fat as retroperitoneal fat express more HSP after heat exposure  
389 at fever range than subcutaneous fat [83,85]. Omental fat spontaneously expresses more HSP 70,  
390 and HSP 90 [85] and cancer associated adipocytes transfers HSP 70 into their lipid droplets to  
391 facilitate FFA release[86].

392 Therefore, extended peritonectomy, bowel and omental manipulations could expose  
393 adipocyte to HIPEC and EOC to adipocytes and trigger a cellular alliance resulting in EOC  
394 survival within the fat.

395

396 **IV- Conclusion**

397 The intercellular mechanisms involved in the exposure of tumour microenvironment to HIPEC  
398 are various. Even if it seems that the combination of hyperthermia and chemotherapy  
399 constitutes an immune boost, it would seem that mesenchymal cells but also its endothelial and  
400 adipocyte relatives could actually protect the remaining cells and explain the peritoneal  
401 recurrences despite radical surgery supplemented by HIPEC procedure.

402 The tumour microenvironment constitutes a variable in tumour identity and its characterization  
403 could lead to i) better select patients benefiting from HIPEC such as a targeted therapy. For  
404 example, high concentration of versican, a high density of T cells or low labelling in HSP 90,  
405 could constitute enhanced indications for HIPEC. ii) to use targeted therapy in addition to  
406 HIPEC: blocking resistance mechanisms involved in HIPEC, such as the use of anti-IL-6, anti  
407 CXCR-4 or anti HSP-90 during the procedure, may also be considered.

408 With this in mind, we are currently conducting a translational study on primary lines of  
409 advanced epithelial cancers taken during exploratory laparoscopy or debulking, in order to  
410 determine a predictive profile of response to HIPEC but also the role of different players in the  
411 microenvironment in resistance to HIPEC. Nevertheless, the study of the role of the  
412 microenvironment in the resistance mechanisms of ovarian cancer remains a topical issue of  
413 great interest.

414

415 **Conflicts of interest:**

416 This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public,  
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420 AC and LB carried out the bibliographical research and writing.

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424

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720

## 721 **Legends:**

722 *Table 1 : Table 1: HIPEC trials through the last 10 years.*

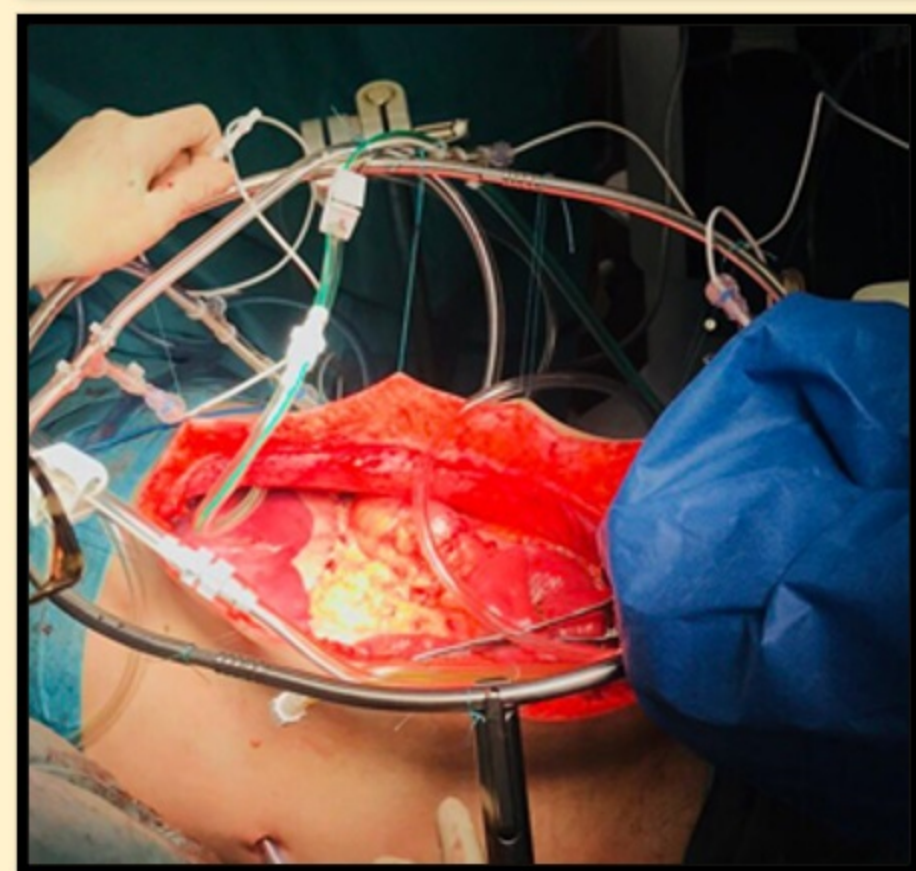
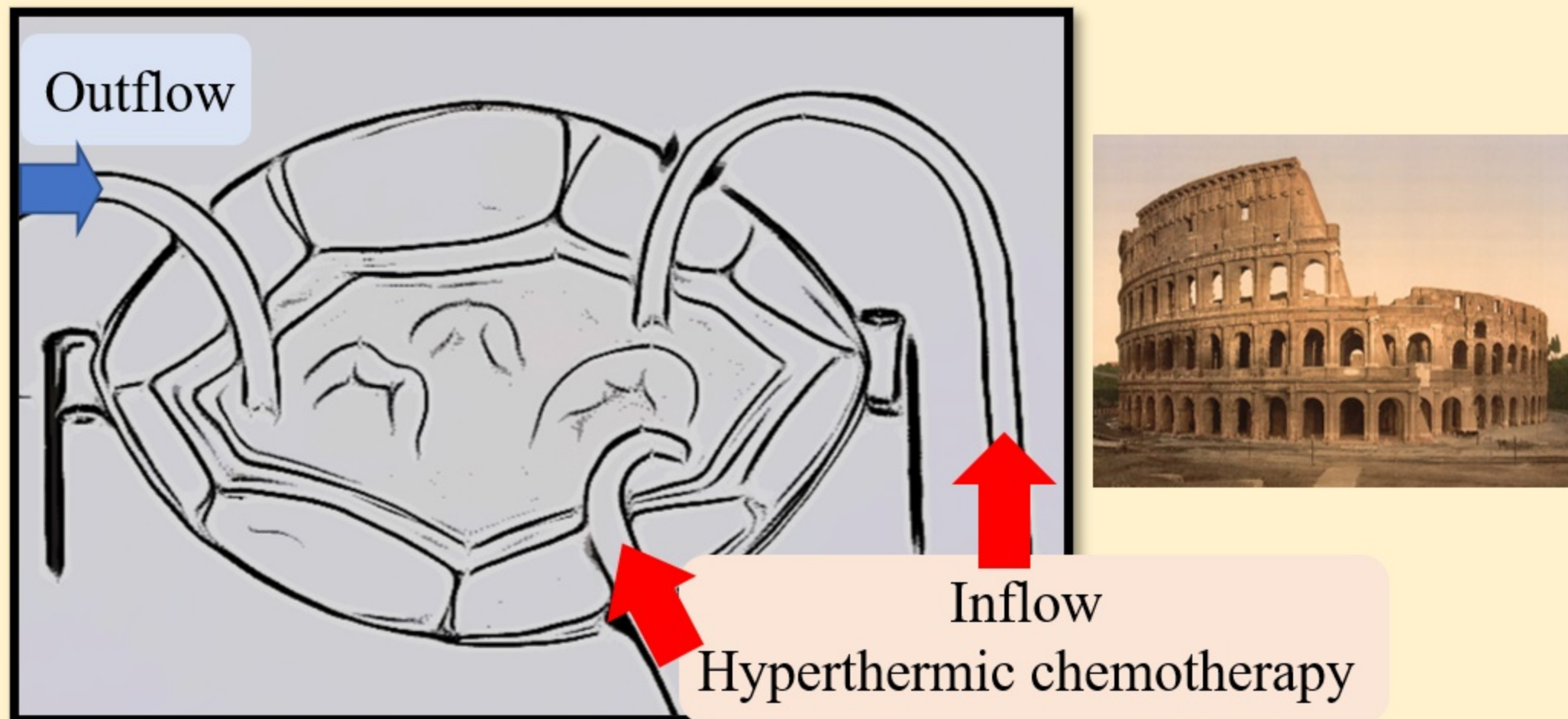
723 *Figure 1: HIPEC open technique : Coliseum.*

724 *Figure 2: Biocellular mechanisms at work in the ovarian tumor microenvironment during*

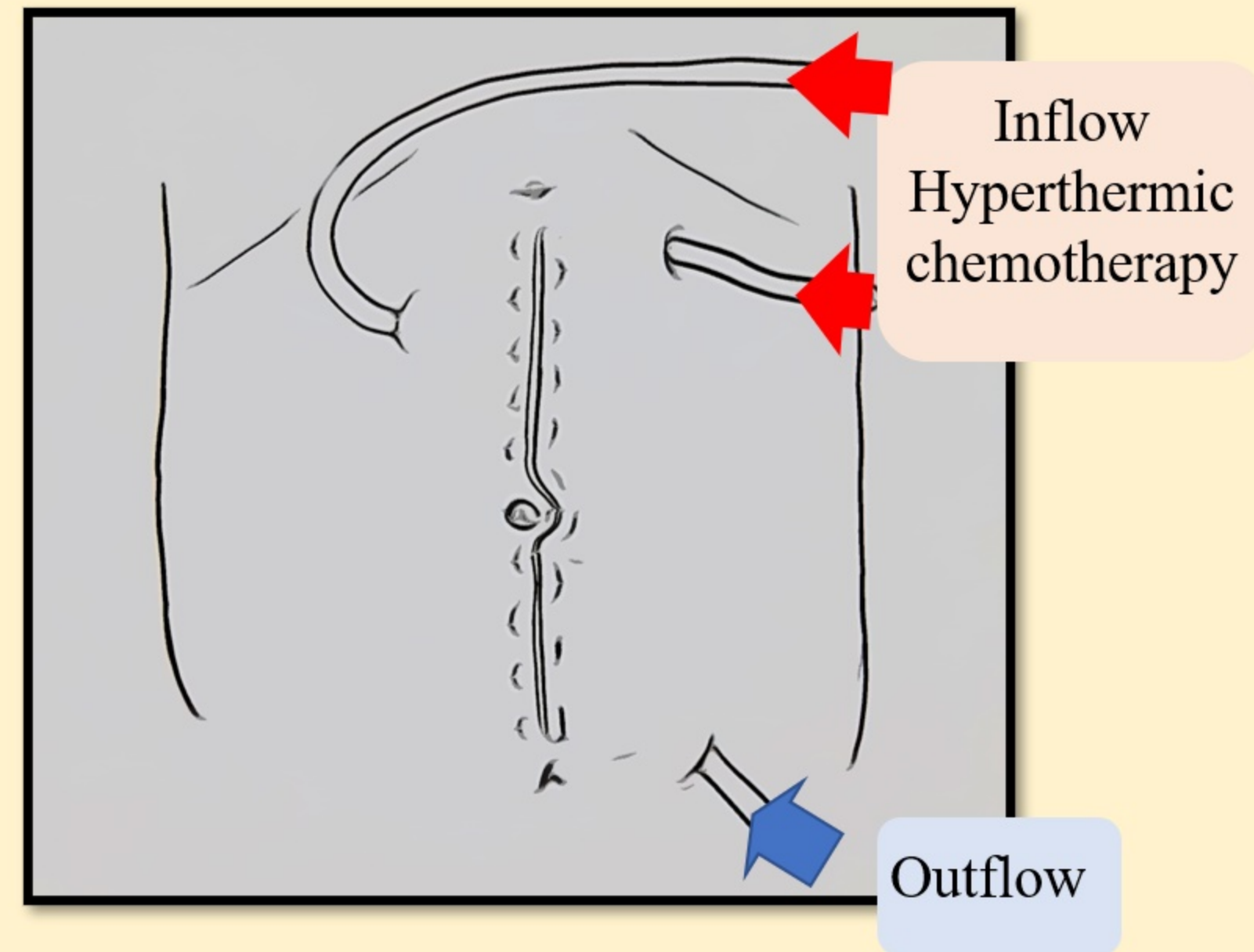
725 *HIPEC.*

726

# OPEN TECHNIQUE : COLISEUM



# CLOSED TECHNIQUE



The OPEN technique is the most commonly used



# HEAT

## ANTI-INFLAMMATORY

## PRO-INFLAMMATORY

