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# Appendix cancer

**Appendix cancer** or appendiceal [cancer](#) is a malignancy of the [vermiform appendix](#), accounting for about 1 in 200 of all gastrointestinal malignancies.

## Presentation

This is a very rare condition and can vary in type. The most common pathologies are [carcinoid](#) tumors or [adenocarcinoma](#).

Appendiceal tumors often present with peritoneal seeding, resulting in peritoneal carcinomatosis or [Pseudomyxoma peritonei](#) (PMP).

## Notable cases

[Audrey Hepburn](#) was a notable victim of appendix cancer, dying of the disease in 1993.

## Treatment

In most cases the tumor has spread outside of the appendiceal tissue. Treatment includes CRS or cytoreductive surgery which includes the removal of visible tumor and affected essential organs within the abdomen and pelvis. The peritoneal cavity is infused with heated [chemotherapy](#) known as HIPEC in an attempt to eradicate residual disease. The surgery may or may not be preceded or followed with intravenous chemotherapy.

In 1998, patients and family caregivers in the US, UK and Holland, realized the need to exchange resources about medical options, clinical trials, research, preparation and recuperation from surgery, assistance with health insurance, etc.

This need for personal interaction among patients was not being met via internet message boards and forums, thus appendiceal cancer patients created the PMP Pals' Network, providing opportunities for the personal and direct exchange of resources.

During the past decade, the PMP Pals' Network of volunteers has expanded to include 45 countries and assist patients in 12 languages.

## External links

Appendix Cancer Blog Articles: Surviving & Thriving with Cancer, Hints for Healthy Living

**PMP Pals Network** — Resources, Referrals, Research, Specialists & Support: Volunteer program

**PMP Awareness** — Awareness, Research, Information, Personal Experiences, Support Group regarding PMP (pseudomyxoma peritonei), appendiceal cancer and other peritoneal surface malignancies

**Appendix Cancer (Appendiceal Carcinoma) and Peritoneal Surface Malignancy** — Story of a 5 year survivor of Signet Ring Appendiceal Cancer plus information about appendiceal cancers, treatments options and treating specialists

## **Appendiceal Cancer Advocacy Network**

### **Tumor of vermiform appendix review**

**VonPurdy-CancerPage** [1]; updated webpage and blog on appendix cancer treatments and research, including heated chemotherapy, and including list of doctors and hospitals offering heated chemotherapy, dedicated to memory of 3-year appendix cancer survivor Von Purdy, mucinous adenocarcinoma

**Von Purdy Cancer Site** [2] ; webpage on appendix cancer maintained by Von Purdy's mother, Mary Gribble, California, USA, from a surviving parent's perspective