

APPENDIX 5 ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

ABBREVIATIONS

5-FU	5-fluourocil
ACBE	air contrast barium enema
ACN	Australian Cancer Network
ACPS	Australian clinicopathological stage
AHTAC	Australian Health Technology Advisory Committee
AJCC	American Joint Committee on Cancer
ALCCaS	Australian multicentre prospective clinical study, comparing laparoscopic and conventional open surgical treatment of colon cancer in adults
ANO	anoscopy
APC	adenomatous polyposis coli
APR	abdominoperineal resection
ASA	aspirin
ASCO	American College of Clinical Oncology
BE	barium enema
BFOBT	biochemical faecal occult blood testing
CCOPGI	Cancer Care Ontario Practice Guidelines Initiative
CCR	(laparoscopy) converted (to open) colon resection
CEA	carcinoembryonic antigen
CER	Cost-Effectiveness Ratio
CHRPE	congenital hypertrophy of retinal pigmented epithelium
CI	confidence interval
CMT	combined modality therapy (comprising both radiotherapy and chemotherapy)
COL	colonoscopy
COX-2	cyclo-oxygenase-2 specific inhibitor
CRC	Colorectal Cancer
CT	computerised tomography
CTAP	computerised tomography arterial portography
CTC	computerised tomography colonoscopy (virtual colonoscopy)
DALY	Disability Adjusted Life Year
DCBE	double contrast barium enema
DFMO	difluoromethylornithine
DFS	disease free survival
DRE	digital rectal examination

DVT	deep venous thrombosis
ECOG	European Cooperative Oncology Group
EFE	extrafascial excision
EORTC	European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer
EPIC	European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition
ERUS	endorectal ultrasound
EUS	endoluminal ultrasound
FA	folinic acid
FAP	familial adenomatous polyposis
FC50	filter colonoscopy
FDG-PET	fluorodeoxyglucose-positron emission tomography
FNDA	fecal DNA
FOBT	faecal occult blood testing
FOLFIRI	5-FU plus irinotecan
FOLFOX	5-FU plus oxaliplatin
FSIG	flexible sigmoidoscopy
FUDR	5-fluoro-2'-deoxyuridine
H – II	Hemoccult II
HAI	hepatic arterial infusion
HAL	hand assisted laparoscopy
HDLV	high-dose leucovorin
HNPCC	hereditary nonpolyposis Colorectal Cancer
HRT	hormone replacement therapy
ICER	Incremental cost effectiveness ratio
IFL	bolus 5-FU plus irinotecan
IFOBT	immunological faecal occult blood testing
IHC	immunohistochemical staining
ImmCOL	immediate total colonoscopy
LAR	low anterior resections
LARHC	laparoscopically assisted right hemicolectomy
LCR	laparoscopic colon resection
LDLV	low-dose leucovorin
LS	laparoscopic surgery
LV	Leucovorin
MAC	Modified Astler-Coller

MACRONUTRIENTS	An essential nutrient required in a relatively large amount, including carbohydrates, fats, proteins, water and some minerals.
MAP	MYH-associated polyposis
MICRONUTRIENTS	An essential dietary element required only in small quantities such as trace minerals
MMR	mismatch repair genes
MRC	magnetic resonance colonography
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
MSI	microsatellite instability
MSI-H	microsatellite instability — high
MSI-L	microsatellite instability — low
MSS	microsatellite stable
MTHFR	methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase
MYH	mutY homologue
NACCP	Netherlands Adjuvant Colorectal Cancer Project
NCCTG	Northern Central Cancer Treatment Group
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NSABP	National Surgical Adjuvant Breast Project
NSAID	nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
OCR	planned open colon resection
ORHC	open right hemicolectomy
PET	positron emission tomography
PLCO	Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (Cancer Screening Trial)
PVI	protracted venous infusional
QALY	quality adjusted life-year
QPL	Question Prompt List
QUASAR	quick and simple and reliable
RCT	randomised controlled trial
RECT	rectosigmoidoscopy
RFA	radiofrequency ablation
RFTA	radiofrequency thermal ablation
RG	rehydrated guaiac
RPHA	reversed passive hemmagglutination
SEER	surveillance, epidemiology and end results (data collection program of the National Cancer institute in the United States)
SWOG	South Western Oncology Group
TEMS	transanal endoscopic microsurgery
TME	total mesorectal excision

TNM	tumour, node, metastasis staging system
TRUS	Transrectal ultrasound
TVUS	transvaginal ultrasound
UFT	tegafur + uracil
pTNM	pathological staging
VCOG	Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group
WHO	World Health Organization

GLOSSARY

Abdomen	The part of the body between the chest and hips, which contains the stomach, liver, intestines, bladder and kidneys.
Adjuvant chemotherapy	Chemotherapy that is used in a supplementary but not dominant therapy.
Advanced cancer	Cancer that has metastasised and/or is unlikely to be cured
Aetiology	Cause or causality
Age-standardised rate	A procedure for adjusting rates eg death rates, designed to minimise the effects of differences in age composition when comparing rates for different populations.
Aggressive	A word for a fast-growing cancer.
Allogeneic	Tissue from a donor.
Alpha interferon	A glycoprotein used in the treatment of cancer. One of its effects is to inhibit cell growth.
Alternative therapies	A term used to loosely describe any type of therapy outside the orthodox circle of surgery, radiation or chemotherapy. Alternative therapies include things such as diet therapy, vitamins and herbs. (<i>See also Complementary therapies</i>)
Antibody	A protein that is made in lymph tissue to destroy infections and other potentially harmful ‘invaders’ in the body.
Anticoagulant	A substance that prevents blood clotting.
Anxiety	A diffuse highly unpleasant, often vague feeling of apprehension, accompanied by bodily sensations such as pounding heart or sweating. There is an associated anticipation of future misfortune or danger, external or internal.
Apoptosis	Process of cell death.
Autologous	Tissue graft, blood transfusion etc arising from the recipient.
Benign	Not cancerous. Benign cells are not able to spread like cancer cells.
Biopsy	The removal of a small sample of tissue from the body, for examination under a microscope, to help diagnose a disease
Cancer registry	A centre in each state and territory where details of cancers are collected to monitor trends.
Case control study	A study that starts with the identification of people with the disease of interest and uses a suitable group without the disease for comparison to assess possible factors involved in the development of the disease. Such studies are often called retrospective as they look back from the outcome to its causes.
Cells	The ‘building blocks’ of the body. A human is made of millions of cells, which are adapted for different functions. Cells are able to reproduce themselves exactly, unless they are abnormal or damaged, as are cancer cells.

Chemotherapy	The use of drugs (which are cytotoxic) or a combination of drugs to kill cancer cells or prevent or slow their growth
Chest cavity	The area enclosed by the ribs, above the diaphragm.
Chemo-responsiveness	The measure of how a tumour reacts when an anti-tumour drug is administered
Chlorambucil	A cytotoxic agent or drug used during chemotherapy to kill cancer or lymphoma cells.
Clinical practice guidelines	The bringing together by a central authority of the best available evidence to support recommendations for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
Colonoscopy	Examination of the whole Colon by means of an appropriately lighted flexible, elongated tube.
Complementary therapies	A term used to refer to therapies, such as meditation and relaxation therapy, that can work alongside conventional therapy.
Counselling	Refers generically to a form of supportive care delivered by all health professionals. There are differing levels of sophistication depending on the training and experiences of the practitioner involved.
CT scanning	Computerised tomography is a technique for constructing pictures from cross sections of the body, by x-raying from many different angles the part of the body to be examined.
Cyclophosphamide	A cytotoxic agent used during chemotherapy to kill cancer or lymphoma cells.
Cytology	The study of the origin, structure, function and pathology of cells.
Depression	A pervasive or sustained lowering of mood or the loss of interest in nearly all activities. When used clinically, it is a cluster of symptoms or a syndrome, whose other features may include: changes in appetite or weight, sleep or psychomotor activity; decreased energy; feelings of worthlessness or guilt; difficulty thinking, concentrating or making decisions; or recurrent thoughts of death or suicide ideation, plans or attempts.
Diagnosis	The process of identifying a person's illness.
Diaphragm	A muscle below the lungs and heart. It separates the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity.
Doxorubicin/liposomal doxorubicin	Agent used in chemotherapy.
Efficacy	The ability of a drug or intervention to produce the desired beneficial effect under ideal conditions.
Epidemiology	The study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events in specified populations and the application of this study to the control of health problems.
FDG	Fluoro-deoxy glucose (see PET scanning)
First line therapy	The first administration of therapy such as chemotherapy following surgical removal of the tumour.

FAP	Familial adenomatous Polyposis
FNA	Fine needle aspiration is a procedure in which a fine needle is used to suck up a few cells from a tumour, for biopsy
Frozen section	A specimen of tissue that has been quick frozen, cut and stained immediately for rapid histological diagnosis of malignant tissue
Gene	One of the biologic units of heredity which are situated in specific locations on particular chromosomes in the body. Genes make up the DNA molecules that control cell reproduction and function.
Genome	A complete set of hereditary factors in the chromosomes
Growth factor	A substance that stimulates cells to reproduce and rapidly multiply.
H&E sections	Use of a stain -Hematoxylin-eosin - for routine examination of tissue under a microscope. Cell nuclei are stained deep blue and the surrounds (cytoplasm) pink.
Histology	The study of the minute structure, composition and function of tissues.
HNPC	Hereditary non-polyposis Colorectal Cancer.
Immune system	The body's natural defence system. It protects against anything it recognises as an "invader", for example, bacteria, viruses, transplanted organs and tissues, tumour cells and parasites.
Immunotherapy	Treatment with immunopotentials and immunosuppressants.
Incidence	The number of new cases of illness or disease during a given period in a specified population.
Indolent	A word for a slow-growing cancer.
Interferon	A substance made by the body in response to viral infection. It inhibits virus multiplication and has shown some activity against a few uncommon cancers.
Infusion	Introduction of a fluid such as a saline solution into the blood by gravity flow.
Intravenous chemotherapy	Administration of a chemotherapy using the veins
Laparoscopy	Examination of a body cavity by means of a laparoscope.
Laparotomy	Surgery where an incision is made through the abdominal wall to expose abdominal contents.
Lymph nodes	Also called lymph glands. Small, bean-shaped structures which form part of the lymphatic system. Lymph is the fluid that flows through this system and carries cells that help to fight disease and infection. The lymph nodes filter the lymph to remove bacteria and other harmful agents, such as cancer cells.
Lymphatic system	The lymphatic system is part of the immune system, which protects the body against 'invaders', like bacteria and parasites. The lymphatic system is a network of small lymph nodes connected by very thin lymph vessels, which branch into every part of the body.

Malignant Cancerous	Malignant cells can spread (metastasise) and can eventually cause death if they cannot be treated.
Meta-analysis	A statistical method used to combine the results of different studies on the same topic. Used to pool results from a number of small randomised controlled trials to provide an aggregate that will allow for demonstration of statistically significant results.
Metastasis	Also known as a secondary tumour. A tumour that develops when cancer cells become detached from the original (or primary) tumour and are carried by the lymph and blood systems to other parts of the body.
Micronutrients	An essential dietary element required only in small quantities as trace elements.
Mitosis	The process of cell division where new cells are formed. Used by the body to replace dead cells.
Monoclonal antibody	An antibody derived from a single cell, relating to a single clone.
Morbidity	Term used to report on illness. Can also be used to show persons who were ill, the period of illness and the duration of the illness.
Mortality	Death rate due to a particular cause or disease.
MRI	A special imaging technique used to image internal structures of the body. It uses the influence of a large magnet to polarize hydrogen atoms in the tissues and then monitors the summation of the spinning energies within living cells. Images are very clear and are particularly good for soft tissue, brain and spinal cord, joints and abdomen. These scans may be used for detecting some cancers or for following their progress.
Multidisciplinary care	Multidisciplinary care is the co-ordinated approach using a collaborative group of health professionals and a range of treatment modalities. The team as a whole is responsible for the diagnosis, continuing management and palliative care of the woman with ovarian cancer.
Multidisciplinary team	A group of clinicians and health professionals, from a number of disciplines, working together to manage the care of a patient. The members of the team may include: a surgical oncologist, pathologist, medical oncologist, radiation oncologist, radiologist with a special interest in diagnosis of malignancy, general practitioners, specialist nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacists, psychologists, social workers, genetic counsellors, geneticists, and palliative care specialists.
Mutation	A permanent and transmissible change in genetic material.
Myelosuppression	Suppression of bone marrow activity resulting in a decrease in the number of platelets, red cells and white cells.
Neo-adjuvant	Chemotherapy that is administered before the dominant therapy, for example, radiotherapy/surgery
Oral alkylating agent therapy	An anti-cancer or cytotoxic agent eg a platinum compound. An alkylating agent is one which substitutes an alkyl group for an active hydrogen in an organic compound.

Palliative care	The active total care of patients whose disease is not responsive to curative treatment. It encompasses the provision of co-ordinated medical, nursing and allied services to help relieve physical symptoms and to provide psychological, emotional and spiritual support.
Pathology	The study of diseases, especially their causes and nature.
Pathogenesis	The development of a disease, specifically the cellular events, reactions and other pathologic mechanisms that occur.
Peritoneum	The lining of the abdomen.
PET scan	Positron emission tomography. A technique that is used to build up clear and detailed cross-section pictures of the body. The person is injected with a glucose solution containing a small amount of radioactive material. The PET scanner can 'see' the radioactive substance. Damaged or cancerous cells show up as areas where the glucose solution is being used.
Phase I, II, III trial	The different stages of a clinical trial. Phase I is designed to evaluate the relationship between dose and toxicity. In Phase II new treatments are screened for their anti-tumour effect, to see which are worthy of further evaluation and in Phase III patients are randomly allocated to receive the new treatment or the best available standard treatment.
Ploidy studies	Identification of the number of genomes (complete set of chromosomes) it contains
Pooled data	Data from a number of studies combined for analysis to look for an effect/result
Prognosis	A forecast as to the probable outcome of a disease and the prospect of recovery based on the nature of the case.
Proliferating	Growth by reproduction of similar cells
Quality of life	A person's view of their situation and well-being. It encompasses symptoms of disease, side effects of treatment, relationships, occupational and social functioning and a subjective evaluation of adjustment to daily life.
Radiotherapy	The use of radiation, usually x-rays or gamma rays, to kill cancer cells or injure them so they cannot grow and multiply. Radiotherapy treatment can also harm normal cells, but they are able to repair themselves.
Randomised controlled trial (RCT)	A study or experiment where subjects are allocated at random to receive or not receive the treatment, procedure or intervention. The results for each group are compared. Generally held to be the most scientifically rigorous method of testing an hypothesis.
Relapse	The return of a disease after a period of improvement or remission.
Relative risk	The risk (of a disease or death) among those exposed to the risk compared to those who are not exposed to the risk.
Relative survival	Relative survival analysis aims to quantify how long someone

	with a specific disease might survive when compared to the “general population”. The general population are matched to the “disease” cases by age, sex and year of diagnosis. Relative survival is thus the ratio of the proportion of survivors in the disease group to the proportion of survivors in a similar group of people without the disease. A relative survival of 100% would indicate that persons with disease do not die any more rapidly as they age than people without the disease whereas a result of less than 100% indicates that the disease is resulting in premature death, even when other causes of death have been accounted for.
Remission	The decrease or disappearance of the symptoms of a disease. A person is said to be in complete remission when there is no evidence of active disease.
Resection	Surgical removal of part of all of an organ or tissue.
Risk factor	Things that cause people to have a greater chance of developing an illness. Risk factors for cancer include exposure to harmful substances (such as asbestos, some viruses and cigarette smoke) and inheriting a predisposition to a cancer.
Sigmoidoscopy	Inspection of sigmoid colon through either a rigid or flexible hollow tube appropriately lighted to view the lumen of the sigmoid.
Spleen	An organ in the upper part of the abdomen on the left side, below and behind the stomach. The spleen produces lymphocytes, filters blood, stores blood and destroys cells that are ageing. It can mount an immune response to infections in the blood system.
Staging	Investigations to find out how far a cancer has progressed. This is important in planning the best treatment.
Stage/staging/stage distribution	The classification of a tumour according to its extent.
Tissue	A collection of cells
Tissue biopsy	Examination of tissue, which has been removed from the body, under a microscope so that any abnormalities in the cells can be seen.
Toxicity	The quality of being poisonous
Tumour	Also called neoplasm. A new growth of tissue in which cell multiplication is uncontrolled and progressive. Tumours are classified in a number of ways the simplest being their origin and whether they are malignant or benign.
Tumour/tumourgenesis	The production of tumours
Tumour marker	A substance found in the body that suggests the presence of a tumour.
Ultrasound	‘Ultrasound’ is sound waves of a very high frequency (higher than the human ear can hear). If ultrasound is directed at the body, it is reflected back differently by different types of tissue. In an ultrasound scan, these differences are measured and used to build

	up pictures of structures in the body. Ultrasound pictures are usually taken by an ultrasound technician, who guides the scanning by watching the images on a screen like a television.
Vinblastine	A cytotoxic agent or drug used during chemotherapy to kill cancer or lymphoma cells.
Vincristine	A cytotoxic agent or drug used during chemotherapy to kill cancer or lymphoma cells.
Virtual colonoscopy	Visualisation of the large bowel by computer tomography.
White blood cells	Also known as leucocytes. One of the two main types of cells present in blood. They play a major role in fighting infection.

Partly adopted from The Cancer Council Victoria handbook titled: 'Lymphoma, a guide for people with cancer, their families and friends'.