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## Media Release

### RUH uses latest technology to treat ovarian cancer

The Royal United Hospitals (RUH) Bath NHS Foundation Trust has become one of five trusts in the UK to introduce an innovative piece of equipment used for the targeted removal of cancer cells for patients with ovarian cancer.

The PlasmaJet Ultra is more successful in removing all traces of the tumour than more traditional surgical methods, leading to better patient outcomes.

Jonathan Frost, Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist at the RUH said: "This is an invaluable tool in advanced ovarian cancer, where the tumour is typically found in multiple nodules on the surface of organs and tissues such as the bowel.

"We know that this is going to make such a difference to our patients and their quality of life and we are delighted to be able to offer this advancement in cancer treatment to our patients at the RUH."

Some women undergoing surgery for ovarian cancer need to have parts of their bowel removed in order to eradicate the disease. In some cases, this means patients need a stoma and possible further follow-up surgeries.

The PlasmaJet Ultra uses the plasma energy from ionised argon gas to destroy cancer cells safely during surgery. This makes it easier to remove cancer cells from structures such as the bowel and diaphragm, without causing damage to healthy surrounding tissue.

As a result, there may be no need to remove the tissue in these areas, which reduces the impact on a patient's quality of life after their surgery and the amount of time they stay in hospital.

Jonathan added: “Now we have the PlasmaJet Ultra, we’re able to vaporise a tumour from tissues more precisely, causing minimal damage to areas such as the bowel so patients have better outcomes and a shorter recovery period. Using the PlasmaJet we can avoid bowel surgery and stomas in some patients.”

The new equipment can also reduce the length of time it takes to operate which reduces the risk of complications for the patient, such as infections.

Joan, 75, from Midsomer Norton, recently benefited from this surgery. She said: “I was first diagnosed with cancer 15 years ago and underwent surgery back then to treat it. Unfortunately my recovery was long and very painful.

“Six weeks ago, I had PlasmaJet surgery at the RUH and the difference in my recovery has been incredible. I was mobile within three days, walking within five, and now six weeks on I’m able to comfortably potter around the house and go on short country walks.

“There has been less pain this time around too and that’s made my emotional recovery much easier. This new equipment meant I didn’t have to have a stoma either, which would have been life changing.

“The care I received at the RUH was exemplary. It was amazing to be able to benefit from this surgery and I’m so pleased others like me will be able to benefit from this now too. I was given my whole life back and I’m forever grateful to the team.”

## Ends

### Notes to Editor:

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country

offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit\\_for\\_the\\_future](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future)

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

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