

69

DRUG TREATMENT RUBY'S ONLY HOPE, DOCTOR REPORTS

DALLAS (AP) — Jack Ruby's only chance to survive the cancer spreading through his body lies in treatment by drugs, a doctor said Tuesday.

Dr. Jack Barnett said Ruby cannot be cured by surgery because his cancer already is too widespread. The disclosure appears to considerably darken Ruby's chances for recovery.

Barnett also said at a news conference that another tumor has been found in Ruby, this one in the pleura, the lining between the chest and the lung. He said it is the same malignant kind found in a lymph node in Ruby's neck Saturday.

Barnett is associate professor of internal medicine at the Southwestern Medical School, adjacent to

Parkland Hospital where Ruby was transferred from his jail cell Friday.

Barnett said further tests are being performed to try to locate the primary source of the cancer, which has spread into his lymph system, similar to the blood stream.

Doctors say they suspect that the source is the lungs, the pancreas or the gastro-intestinal tract.

"It is incurable by surgery," Barnett said. "Surgery might be used for benefit, but not for a cure."

Barnett also said Ruby's lungs have been infiltrated by "small nodules." He said they may or may not be cancerous, and that tests are being run to determine their nature.

He said Ruby's only hope for a cure is chemotherapy, or treatment by drugs.

Ruby, 55-year-old former strip joint operator, was awaiting a second trial for his slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald when he was taken to the hospital. The Warren Commission named Oswald as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963. Ruby shot Oswald to death two days later in the City Hall basement as Oswald was being transferred to the county jail.

A Dallas jury sentenced Ruby to death but a state appellate court reversed the conviction. END