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Ruby Has 2d Cancerous Tumor, Drugs Called His Only Chance

DALLAS, Dec. 13 (AP) — Jack Ruby's only chance to survive the cancer spreading through his body lies in treatment by drugs, a doctor said today.

Dr. Jack Barnett said that Ruby could not be cured by surgery because the cancer was already too widespread.

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

Dr. Barnett is associate professor of internal medicine at the Southwest Medical School, adjacent to Parkland Memorial Hospital where Ruby was transferred from his jail cell on Friday.

Ruby, 55-year-old former operator of a strip spot, was awaiting a second trial for his slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald when he was hospitalized. Oswald assassinated President Kennedy in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963. Ruby shot Oswald to death two days later in the city hall basement as he was being transferred to the County Jail.

Sentence was Reversed

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

Dr. Jay Sanford, another physician who is treating Ruby, said that the tumor in his lymph gland was "malignant, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's hopeless."

The Dallas Times Herald said today, however, that "a large tumor in the seriously afflicted lung of Ruby's lungs." It said the tumor system had been revealed by X-ray, and quoted an unnamed source as saying, "It is quite extensive." Dr. Barnett said further tests were being performed to try to

locate the primary source of the cancer, which has spread into his lymph system. Doctors say they suspect that the source is the lungs, the pancreas or the gastro-intestinal tract.

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

'Nodules' In Lungs

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

He said Ruby's only hope for a cure was chemotherapy, or treatment by drugs. Drug therapy can be useful in suppressing a tumor and in alleviating pain, he added.

The doctor also said radiological treatment could not be used on Ruby because the disease was too extensive and was of a cell type, which does not respond well to such treatment.

"He is alert and in reasonably good spirits," Dr. Barnett said.

He said Ruby experienced "modest discomfort" this morning when a second tube was inserted into his chest to drain off fluid. He also said Ruby had a mild fever.

Ruby neither smokes nor drinks, and appeared in good health until he complained of chest pains Friday. The tentative diagnosis was mesothelioma.