

CRITICAL

Ruby Body Just Mass Of Cancer

New pathological data revealed Tuesday added further support to reports that Jack Ruby's internal system is shot through with cancer.

Dr. Jack Barnett, a specialist in internal medicine assigned to the case, said that malignant tumor cells have been found in the pleura (chest lining) and that unidentified nodules exist on both lungs.

Results of a biopsy taken from bronchus tissue were expected later Tuesday.

Cancer already has been found in the 55-year-old former nightclub owner's lymphatic system.

Hope for cure of Ruby, charged with killing accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, was narrowed considerably Tuesday when Dr. Barnett revealed that two of three possible treatment techniques—radiation therapy and surgery—would be useless.

sent the primary tumor known to be somewhere in Ruby's body.

The nodules were described as being numerous and ranging in size from the diameter of a dime to the diameter of a nickel.

He said that if the nodules are malignancies, they could be the result of the spread of a primary tumor like the invasion of the lymph system.

According to Dr. Barnett, the only certain way to determine whether the nodules are malignant is to open Ruby's chest and

See X-RAY on Page 13

"THE CANCER is of a cell type which does not respond well to radiation," Dr. Barnett explained, "and it would be further difficult since at least two sites are known to exist."

Surgery was ruled out primarily for the same reasons, he said.

This leaves only drug treatment, technically called chemotherapy. While drugs have been known to bring some tumors under temporary control, total cure is rare.

Dr. Barnett said barium would be pumped into Ruby's intestinal tract Tuesday afternoon to allow X-rays to be taken of the upper and lower portions of the system.

While Dr. Barnett would not say he expects to find tumor in the intestines, he said he would not be surprised if it existed.

"I AM A hard man to surprise," he said.

Dr. Barnett was necessarily vague about the numerous lung nodules discovered by X-ray Monday afternoon. He would not speculate whether they repre-

Tuesday
Dec. 13, 1966

X-Ray Tests Dim Hopes for Ruby

Continued From Page 1

remove one for microscopic examination.

No such plans now exist, he said.

DR. BARNETT, like other physicians who have spoken publicly about the case, declines to speculate on Ruby's chances of survival.

"Cancer is a difficult disease to cure under the best of circumstances," he said.

Parkland Hospital has revised its condition report on Ruby from serious to critical. However, Dr. Barnett said this does not indicate any drastic change in the man's condition.

Meanwhile, physicians have inserted a second tube into Ruby's right chest to further facilitate drainage of a fluid mass which continues to be generated.

Dr. Barnett said he is unable to tell whether more fluid is being produced now than when the first drainage took place Saturday.

Tuesday's new idea further lengthened a shadow already cast over the prospects of Ruby's retrial on a charge of killing Oswald.

Dr. Jay Sanford, another physician assigned to the case, said Monday that "it seems unlikely that he will be able to stand trial any time soon."

Ruby was convicted of Oswald's murder by a Dallas court in March, 1964. He was sentenced to death.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ordered a new trial in a decision which called attention to certain testimony the court

Ruby is ambulatory — he reportedly reads a great deal and watches television in his private room — though his condition is officially listed as critical.

There is some speculation that the seriousness of the malignancy might lead Ruby's lawyers to obtain the accused killer's freedom by bond. However, his attorneys have offered no public comment on this possibility.

Ruby has been eligible for bonded freedom since the state court ordered the new trial.

But his lawyers have declined to ask for their client's freedom because of a quirk in state law which says that once jail service is broken the time previously served cannot be applied to any sentence Ruby might get in his retrial.

—BILL McADA

considered prejudicial to Ruby's defense.

The retrial has been set for Wichita Falls, tentatively in February.

Ruby's hospitalization marked the first overnight stay outside his jail cell since his conviction. He remains under guard at the hospital.

Ruby was told Saturday of the malignant lymph node and its implications of a tumor mass elsewhere in his body. Through Monday he reportedly had taken the grim news calmly.