

Doctors Find Ruby Suffers From Cancer

No Estimate Of Survival Odds Made

By KENT BIFFLE

Jack Ruby has cancer.

Doctors at Parkland Hospital — where both President John F. Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald died — discovered Saturday that cancer cells are spreading through Ruby's body.

A cancerous lymph node, "the size of the end of your thumb," was removed from Ruby's neck near his right collarbone. Doctors believe it indicates the presence of a major tumor elsewhere in Ruby's body. They are trying to pinpoint it.

UNTIL THEY FIND the source of the cancer cells that invaded the lymph nodes, doctors won't be able to state the odds on Ruby's surviving.

A professor of thoracic surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical

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School, Dr. Watts Webb, who removed the lymph node, said, "Present treatments can sometimes help."

But Dr. Webb and Dr. Jay Sanford, professor of internal medicine, agreed that the long-term outlook for Ruby is "serious."

Ruby, a 55-year-old non-smoker, escaped a death sentence when the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reversed his conviction for the murder of presidential assassin Oswald.

Ruby was scheduled to be retried in February in Wichita Falls.

DR. SANFORD said Saturday that Ruby won't be able to stand trial during the next "couple of months or so." A stay of "weeks" in the hospital was predicted by the doctors — if Ruby improves.

Ruby was told that he has cancer, said Dr. Sanford, who added that the Saturday surgery was performed after consultation with Ruby, his sister, Mrs. Eva Grant of Dallas, and his brother, Earl Ruby of Detroit. When Jack Ruby was told of the malignancy, "he accepted it well," said Dr. Sanford.

The doctors described their findings Saturday in a press conference in the office of Sheriff Bill Decker.

Ruby was taken to the hospital Friday for treatment of what was believed to be a bad cold that had developed into pneumonia.

The doctors indicated that the fluid that had accumulated in Ruby's chest could reflect the presence of a tumor in his chest. The fluid thwarted Xray attempts Saturday, however.

"**THE TUMOR** might be located in any of several places," said Dr. Sanford. More than four quarts of fluid were removed from Ruby's chest, said Dr. Webb.

He noted that the fluid accumulated not in Ruby's right lung but outside the lung, between the lung and the ribs.

A tube was inserted into Ruby's chest to drain off the fluid. Both the removal of the node and the insertion of the tube were done under local anesthesia, said Dr. Sanford.

Ruby was in surgery about 45 minutes and by 3:30 p.m. was back in his guarded hospital room. He was "able to take nourishment," said Dr. Sanford.

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