

Cancer Origin Still Uncertain

Doctors treating Jack Ruby

for cancer said Thursday the primary source of the disease is either in his lungs or pancreas.

At a Thursday morning press conference, the medical experts said that diagnostic work is complete, and no further determination of the precise location of the cancer can be made by tests.

Nothing to make the outlook for Ruby more optimistic was noted at the conference Thursday, but his doctors indicated they won't make it public if they lose hope for their patient. "I don't think we're in a position to tell you he's not going to live," said Dr. Jay Sanford. He indicated doctors have some hope he can be saved.

SANFORD AND Dr. Eugene Frenkel, Southwestern Medical School professors and members of the team of physicians treating Ruby, were the ones who revealed that the primary source of the cancer is in either the lungs or the pancreas.

Ruby, convicted once of slaying accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, has

now begun a program of chemotherapy, or treatment of the disease with chemicals. The doctors said he is receiving intravenous injections of 5-fluorocil, the same drug that doctors used in an effort to cure late House Speaker Sam Rayburn.

The doctors said it is too

early to tell how Ruby will respond to the therapy.

The chemotherapy may take many years to cure cancer, if it ever does, said Dr. Frenkel, who heads the chemotherapy section at Parkland Hospital. He and the drug prevents nourishment from going to cells that are actively dividing, but the

drug kills some healthy cells along with cancer cells.

THE DOCTOR said, "It should be stressed that we are talking about a drug that seeks remission of tumor activity. If we prolong remission for many years, we may talk about a cure."

Remission of tumor activity, Frenkel explained, means controlling the growth of tumors.

Asked if Ruby's disease might be controlled by this method, the doctor replied it is too early to tell.

Ruby was admitted to the hospital last Friday with what was believed to be pneumonia. Doctors announced the next day that cancer had been detected in a lymph node in Ruby's neck.

The doctors also found cancerous cells in the lining of his chest cavity and tumor activity in both lungs.

The discovery of cancer casts a shadow on the new trial for Ruby, whose conviction and death sentence were reversed Oct. 5 by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

DIST. JUDGE Louis T. Hol-
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land of Montague announced last week that the new trial would be held in Wichita Falls, possibly in February.

Principals in the trial have indicated they are awaiting word from doctors to precede with preparations, since physicians would have to certify Ruby was able to stand trial.

The doctors said Ruby is in good morale, but is bed-ridden because of tubes inserted in his chest to remove fluid generated by the cancerous tissue.

The doctors drew four quarts of fluid from the chest cavity shortly after Ruby was admitted to the hospital.

Dr. Sanford chided the newsmen for publishing reports that there is no hope for Ruby.

"HIS MORALE is incredible in light of the fact that he has access to news media," the doctor said. "This should make an impression on you."

"Certain news releases have disturbed him. If you or I read this about ourselves, we would be depressed. He has stood up much better than I would," Dr. Sanford said.