

Ruby Cancer Tied to Lung Or Pancreas

By DOUGLAS DOMEIER

The primary origin of Jack Ruby's cancer is either the cell lining of his right lung or the cell lining of the pancreas, doctors reported Thursday.

At the same time, they said the slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald has begun to receive intravenous injections of a chemical drug designed to starve the cancer cells.

Ruby's condition remains essentially unchanged, his doctors added at a press conference at the Dallas County Health Department. He is resting comfortably and is listed as "serious" at Parkland Hospital.

A final Thursday bulletin, issued by Parkland through Sheriff Bill Decker's office, said Ruby was alert, reading and watching television Thursday afternoon and his condition "continues as before."

Ruby was "less alert" earlier because of medication given him during the series of diagnostic tests performed this week.

Dr. Jay Sanford, professor of medicine at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, said the type of cancer cells found in Ruby could stem from either of the two sources pinpointed.

X rays completed Thursday morning showed no cancer in Ruby's gastrointestinal tract (the stomach and intestines) or kidneys. Cancer has been found in a lymph node in Ruby's neck, near his right collarbone, in the cell lining of the right lung and within the bronchial tube of the right lung.

Asked if Ruby had a chance to live, Dr. Sanford replied affirmatively. "If we felt there wasn't a chance, we wouldn't be treating him as vigorously as we are."

He said also that, "In all honesty I don't believe one can say at this time what the percentages are." Doctors said Ruby's condition may not change for two to four weeks.

Diagnostic tests have been completed, Dr. Sanford said, and no surgery is anticipated as part of Ruby's treatment. The drug he is receiving is called five-fluorouracil. It will be administered daily for five days, then every other day after that.

Doctors stressed the difference between "cure" and "control" of the disease.

"We always aim at cure but, like many diseases, cure (of cancer) need not be the sole goal," said Dr. Eugene P. Frenkel, associate professor of internal medicine at Southwestern Medical School.

"We are talking about drug therapy which attempts to induce remission of the tumor," he added. If this remission is prolonged many years, doctors begin using the word "cure."

"A good many patients with disseminated cancer which is well-controlled and well-maintained lead normal lives," Dr. Frenkel explained.

Ruby's morale was described as "quite satisfactory" by Dr. Sanford, in light of the gloomy reports concerning his condition to which Ruby has access.

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