

Doctor Says Ruby Appears Weaker

Physicians treating Jack Ruby admitted Wednesday for the first time that the accused slayer of presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald shows signs of weakening.

The official advisory, released at 9 a.m., said that Ruby "appears somewhat less strong today."

Dr. Eugene Frenkel said, however, that the weakening condition "is very minute and difficult to see."

DR. FRENKEL, head of the team administering chemical therapy to Ruby in an attempt to arrest the tumor coursing through his body, also revealed that the 55-year-old former night-club owner may require a blood transfusion later Wednesday.

"We are running a blood count on him now," Dr. Frenkel said late Wednesday morning. "We should know something later today."

Medical sources said the new blood would be infused to replace blood lost from internal bleeding in Ruby's intestine. This hemorrhaging apparently is a side effect of cancer-fighting drugs being given Ruby.

The source explained that the powerful drug effects the lining of the intestine, causing the normal cell division on the inner linings to be retarded.

THE CELLS, usually replaced by normal cell division every four or five days, are sluffing off. This exposes small blood passages which now apparently are draining into the intestinal tract.

Dr. Frenkel said that if new blood is required, "it probably won't be much."

Dr. Frenkel said that as yet there are no obvious results from the drug therapy being used on Ruby. "We do not expect any results for 10 to 14 days," he said.

MEANWHILE, the physician again denied a recurring rumor that plans are afoot to transfer Ruby to another hospital.

"Aside from the tough problem of prisoner security," Dr. Frenkel said, "Mr. Ruby is in no condition to be moved."

Chest tubes remain in Ruby's chest to drain fluid which continues to accumulate. Wednesday's report said the tubes "are draining (the chest cavity) adequately."