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Advanced Cancer Rules Out Jack Ruby Retrial

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — Jack Ruby is too ill with cancer to face his February retrial for slaying Lee Harvey Oswald, his doctors say.

And other medical experts at Parkland Hospital said Sunday the cancer discovered in Ruby on Saturday is so advanced he may never go to court again.

"Ruby is not at death's door but his cancer is of an advanced stage," one member of his medical team said, "and it could be a month or five years.

"We just don't know until we run more tests to find where the tumors originated."

Ruby is "free of pain" and eating well, the hospital said Sunday, after more than four quarts of fluid were drained from his right chest and his

right lung expanded normally again.

The flashy onetime strip joint operator, who surrounded himself with show business characters but didn't smoke or drink, entered the hospital Friday after being treated at the county jail for a cold and persistent cough.

The hospital first diagnosed his chest congestion as pneumonia but a biopsy Saturday revealed a cancerous lymph node the size of the end of a thumb in his neck near his right collarbone.

"This means the tumor started elsewhere and spread to here and is indicative of an advanced stage," a specialist treating Ruby said. "There is almost certainly cancer in his lung but

we don't know if that is where it started."

Only two months ago Ruby was freed from a court death sentence handed down after his 1964 month-long trial for the sensational slaying of Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

A nation watched on television as the figure of Ruby jerked forward from the crowd of policemen and reporters in the City Hall basement, pointed a pistol at Oswald and shot him Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963 — two days after Kennedy's death.

Ruby's second trial was ordered removed from Dallas and was set for February in Wichita Falls, north of here.