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Ruby's Doctors Probe For Source of Cancer

DALLAS, Dec. 12 (AP) Jack Ruby's fate remained uncertain today as doctors hunted the source and sought to determine the extent of his cancer.

Dr. Jay Sanford, professor of internal medicine at the Southwestern Medical School, adjoining the Parkland Hospital, where Ruby was taken Friday, said at a news conference today that Ruby's cancer is "not necessarily a hopeless case."

Sanford said it might take more than a week to locate the source of the malignancy. He added that medical specialists speculate that the main cancerous growth lies in Ruby's gastrointestinal tract, a lung or the pancreas.

"His chances of recovery depend on the location of the primary site," Sanford said. Ruby, the killer of alleged presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, was taken from jail to the hospital Friday with what at first was thought to be pneumonia.

A malignant tumor was found Saturday in a lymph node in Ruby's neck. Doctors said other sites exist and that the disease is of an advanced nature.

The Dallas Times Herald quoted an unnamed "source close to the medical aspects of the case" that the tumor has spread into too many vital areas, has escaped detection too long, and that doctors fear Ruby is "beyond help."

Sanford said he did not agree with that diagnosis, saying it was too early to tell.

He said Ruby's general con-

dition is reasonably good, and that it is "impossible to predict" whether Ruby's disease is terminal.

Dr. Watts Webb, a Parkland surgeon, said Ruby may survive "two weeks or five years."

Sanford said the source of the cancer would determine whether Ruby is to undergo surgery or instead receive chemical and radiological medication.