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Hughes' Many Ailments Told By Doctors

Houston

Court documents filed yesterday indicate the late billionaire Howard Hughes suffered from cancer, a peptic ulcer, kidney disease, badly decayed teeth and undernourishment.

Testimony in the form of depositions taken from doctors who performed an autopsy on Hughes were filed with Harris county Probate Judge Pat Gregory.

Dr. Jack Titus, pathologist at Baylor College of Medicine, said he found a peptic ulcer, a "tiny focus of cancer" in the prostate gland, scar tissue blocking the urinary tract and uremic poisoning.

Titus said the kidneys were shrunken by an ailment that may have been caused by a drug Hughes took from 1946 to 1972.

Dr. Oscar D. Maldonado, an oral surgeon at Methodist Hospital where the autopsy was performed April 6, said the teeth of the billionaire were so badly decayed they must have been "very, very painful."

Hughes died April 5 while being flown to Houston from Acapulco, Mexico, for medical treatment. A brief report released after the autopsy attributed death to kidney failure.

Methodist Hospital officials later delivered the autopsy report to Gregory, who has Texas jurisdic-

tion for matters involving Hughes' estate, and its details have not been released.

Titus identified the drug that caused the kidney failure as phenacetin, an analgesic Hughes was said to have started taking after he was injured in a 1946 plane crash. Titus quoted Hughes' personal doctors as saying they got their patient to stop taking the drug in 1972.

Associated Press