

Radioactive Gold Aids Cancer Victims

Treatment Revealed

By **ALTON L. BLAKESLEE**
Associated Press Science Reporter.

CHICAGO, April 3.—(AP)—Radioactive gold is helping overcome cancer of the prostrate gland, perhaps the biggest cancer threat in men, an Iowa physician said today.

The atoms of gold pursue and catch runaway cancer cells and destroy them with their radioactive rays.

Benefits from this entirely new treatment—discovered accidentally—were described by Dr. Rubin H. Flocks, urologist of the State University of Iowa, to science writers interviewing cancer specialists under auspices of the American Cancer Society.

USED ON 300.

The gold treatment combined with surgery has been used on 300 men whose cancers were too far advanced for cure by surgery alone.

Thirty-four of the first 100 are alive two and one-half to four years after with no signs of cancer. Even better results are hoped for from improved techniques used on the more recent 200 cases, Doctor Flocks said.

Cancers often spread from the spot where they started. Runaway cells can travel along lymph channels to lodge elsewhere and start new cancers.

The radioactive gold can chase them down if the cells have not traveled too far or invaded the blood or bones, Doctor Flocks said.

WATER INJECTED.

A reddish-purple salt water containing the gold is injected into the cancerous area of the

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ATOMS, GOLD TREAT CANCER

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gland. The gold atoms are also carried along lymph channels to overcome many escaping cells. Some of the cancer is also removed surgically when possible.

The gold shoots off X-rays and beta rays, which are electrons, for one week.

In thirty men, the cancers already had spread to lymph nodes but six are alive today with no signs of cancer. In seventy whose cancers were apparently still localized, twenty-eight are free of the disease. Another fourteen men in the first 100 are alive but with some signs of cancer.

Doctor Flocks said there is hope the technique can save more men than other methods of treating inoperable cancer, which these are.

ACCIDENTAL FIND.

The method was discovered when gold was first given to an old man with recurrent severe trouble from inoperable cancer of the prostate. Gold was given because some was handy, and no radon seeds—which give off X-rays—were available. A week later the man's cancer had shrunk amazingly. He died three and a half years later at age 82 of a heart condition and was free of cancer.

The treatment is being used by a team including Doctor Flocks and Drs. H. Dabney Kerr, H. B. Elkins, Titus E. Evans and David Culp.

Prostatic cancer causes 15 per cent of all cancers in men over 55. More than half of all men over 60 apparently have small prostatic cancers, but often they grow so slowly they cause no trouble.