

State and Local

Dallas researchers develop dye to monitor treatment of tumors

DALLAS (AP) — Researchers have developed a special dye that helps find and monitor tumors as tiny as a pinhead, and it could lead to assessing the effectiveness of cancer treatments weeks earlier than current methods.

That speed could enable doctors to change treatment plans quickly before tumors begin spreading, said Dr. David Ranney, who led the University of Texas Health Science Center research team.

Just one or two thimblefuls of tumor can overwhelm a patient's disease-fighting white blood cells, leading to the spread of cancer, Ranney said Monday.

The dye, tested so far only in mice, enhances the results of magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI. MRI uses magnetic impulses and radio-frequency electromagnetic waves to generate high-quality images of internal organs.

The researchers have studied the dye in mice injected with malignant human melanomas, a lethal form of skin cancer. One group of mice was treated with an anti-tumor drug, while the other group was left untreated.

One to four days after treatment, researchers used an MRI machine to scan both groups of mice. In images made before injection of the dye, both treated and untreated tumors appeared as gray masses, said Ranney, director of the laboratory of targeted diagnosis and therapy in the pathology department.

Ranney said the dye improves detection of tumors because malignant tissue contains blood vessels that are more porous than surrounding tissue. As a result, the dye leaks out of the bloodstream and into tumors, which show up brighter than healthy tissue on MRI scans.

Once cancer cells die, though, blood stops flowing through them, so dead tumor tissue does not absorb the dye, Ranney told the *Dallas Morning News*.

After the dye was injected into the mice, dead cells in the middle of the treated tumors appeared dark on the MRI scan, while the living tumor cells appeared brighter than healthy tissue, Ranney said. The untreated tumors, made up to-

tally of living cells, appeared uniformly bright, he said.

Differences between treated and untreated tumors were apparent in images made just 30 hours after treatment, Ranney said.

The Dallas team is one of about 20 across the country testing methods of determining early on whether cancer therapy is effective, said Dr. John Doppman, chief of radiology for the National Institutes of Health in Rockville, Md.

Another method uses MRI to measure phosphorus metabolism in cancer cells, Doppman said. Changes in phosphorus metabolism occur within only four hours of treatment with an anti-tumor drug, long before the cells actually die.

Currently, cancer doctors usually use X-rays to tell whether chemotherapy has helped shrink tumors, but they must wait three or four weeks before any changes can be detected, Ranney said.

"When they get to the size when you can tell if they've regrown after treatment, they're too big," he said.

Officials ban sale of shirts mocking SMU

DALLAS (AP) — Southern Methodist University officials have banned sales of a new T-shirt circulating on campus that pokes fun at SMU's play-for-pay football scandal.

The shirts that have drawn the ire of university officials show a Mustang, the team's mascot, dead with its feet in the air. It reads, "SMU Football '87" on the front and "Undeafed" on the back.

The T-shirts, being sold by four students, can no longer be sold on campus, university officials say.

"It's degrading — this institution is not dead," said Don Noll, manager of the SMU bookstore and director of licensing.

"We're not punitive, we just want it removed from circulation," he said.

The students think selling the popular T-shirts is an easier way to make money than mowing lawns or waiting tables.

They were recently ordered to take their business off university property, but they still occasionally venture into dormitories, hawking their shirts.

"I've taken some verbal abuse for the shirts from students and faculty, but I laugh all the way to the bank," said Van Leftwich, 22, of Richardson, who recently graduated with a degree in finance.

Leftwich said he and his partners — Rick Herrick, Tom Wilberg and Ted Reade — have sold about 1,000 T-shirts and have netted a total of \$4,000 from the controversial shirts.

Eric Fox, a senior at Southwestern University in Georgetown, who owns three of the shirts, said, "They're a hot commodity; they're black market T-shirts."

Not all school officials are mollified by the T-shirts, he noted.

"We've sold a lot of shirts to administrators," he said. "But it's kind of an under-the-table kind of thing."

Senate backs right of state to appeal in criminal cases

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate approved a proposal Tuesday that would give the state a limited right to appeal in a criminal case.

Sen. John Montford, a former prosecutor, and Sen. Craig Washington, a lawyer who specializes in criminal defense work, debated Montford's proposal on appeals for half an hour before a 26-4 Senate vote advanced it to the House.

Currently, the state has no right of appeal in criminal court cases, and it would require a constitutional amendment to grant that authority to state and local governments.

In fact, Texas is the lone state that prohibits all appeals by the prosecution, according to an analysis of the subject.

Washington, D-Houston, offered

an amendment to Montford's proposal that would grant the defendant the same right of appeal as the state, claiming that "this would make it a little more even-handed."

Montford, D-Lubbock, said granting a defendant certain appeal rights probably would result in inordinate delays.

"There's not the same motivation — good or bad — for the state of Texas," he said.

Washington's amendment was rejected 20-10, after Montford said a proposed constitutional amendment with the same language as Washington's amendment was defeated by the voters in 1980.

A bill to implement Montford's proposed constitutional amendment was sent to the House on voice vote.

If approved, Montford's proposal would go on a statewide ballot Nov. 3.

The bill specifies that the state would be permitted to appeal a court order in a criminal case if, for example, the order dismisses an indictment, modifies a judgment, grants a motion to suppress evidence or a confession, sustains a claim of former jeopardy or grants a motion for a new trial.

Senators also approved on voice vote a conference committee report that would change the current name of the State Board of Morticians to the Texas Funeral Service Commission.

"This is a deadly serious motion," quipped Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby.

Police kill crime watch volunteer in Dallas after disturbance report

DALLAS (AP) — Police shot and killed an 81-year-old crime watch volunteer who witnesses said was trying to thwart an auto theft outside his retirement home, authorities said Tuesday.

Witnesses said police drove up and started shooting after getting a disturbance call late Monday night, but police said David Horton was killed after he fired at officers.

The shooting comes about a week after a congressional hearing on the Dallas police force's use of deadly force. Critics argued that officers are too quick to pull the trigger.

Monday night two officers were dispatched to the south Dallas apartment house where Horton lived after a report of a disturbance with shots fired, police spokesman Hollis Edwards said.

Officers J.B. Nichols, 25, and D. Moten, 34, saw Horton walking across the parking lot with a rifle in his hands as they drove up to the

building in a marked squad car, Edwards said.

He said Horton, holding the gun at his hip, pointed the rifle at both officers as they repeatedly ordered him to drop the weapon. He then fired two shots at Nichols and was gunned down in a hail of police fire, Edwards said.

"Further investigation showed that Horton and two other men were holding a female citizen at gunpoint prior to the officers' arrival," he said. "Witness accounts indicate that Horton and other residents had stopped the female because of crime problems and were attempting to hold her for police."

Police later determined the woman apparently pulled into the parking lot only to turn around and was not involved in any theft, Edwards said.

"(Horton) was a member of the crime watch organization that was trying to do something about crime," Edwards said. "We have no idea why

he fired at the officers."

But Jimmie Wilkerson, vice president of the Park Manor Apartments residents council, said witnesses didn't see Horton fire any shots and that Horton had yelled "don't shoot" before police shot him.

According to witnesses, he also called out, "You've got the wrong guy," before he was killed, said Wilkerson, who did not see the shooting herself. "The police just drove up and started shooting. Everybody here is just sad."

Residents at the apartment complex have appeared before the Dallas Housing Authority several times recently to appeal for better security.

"Any shooting is a tragedy. And in light of the victimization of those residents, it is even more a tragedy," DHA spokesman Wayne Rosenkrans said.

Edwards said Police Chief Billy Prince has asked for an independent investigation by the district attorney's office into the shooting.

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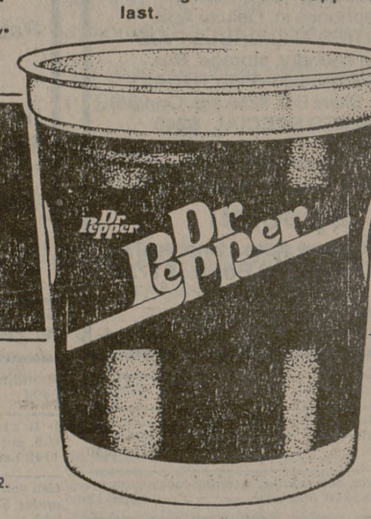
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