

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN SEEKS PATIENTS TO TEST ORAL DRUG FOR OVARIAN CANCER

DALLAS — April 14, 1997 — Researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas are seeking patients for a nationwide clinical trial to determine whether a new drug for advanced ovarian cancer is as effective when given orally as it is intravenously.

Topotecan HC (Hycamtin) is a synthetic form of a drug first isolated from a deciduous tree in China. It blocks the ability of cells to repair broken strands of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), thus causing cell death.

In recent clinical trials, topotecan has been effective as a second-line treatment for women who have already received standard drug treatments for ovarian cancer, such as cisplatin or paclitaxel (Taxol).

"While intravenous topotecan has proved to be a lifesaver for many ovarian cancer patients, we would like to find a less painful, more convenient way to deliver their treatments," said Dr. David Scott Miller, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and holder of the Dallas Foundation Chair in Gynecologic Oncology.

For more information on the new trial of topotecan, patients or referring physicians should call (214) 648-8415.

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