

Kanzius treatment gets world's attention

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The telephone calls started shortly after 7 o'clock Tuesday night.

Big-city newspapers and network television news organizations wanted to talk with Millcreek Township inventor John Kanzius.

"I've been on the phone with them all day," Kanzius said Wednesday afternoon from his winter home in Sanibel, Fla. "They all want me to tell my story from the beginning."

Kanzius is in demand because the American Cancer Society's journal, *Cancer*, published a scientific article about his novel treatment for cancer.

The 14-page article was posted on the journal's Web site Tuesday evening. It details how medical researchers at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston used Kanzius' radio-wave generator to completely destroy liver tumors in live rabbits without any noticeable side effects.

"This article has demonstrated some fundamental proofs of concept," said Len Lichtenfeld, M.D., the American Cancer Society's deputy chief medical officer. "They still have a long way to go. That's not a negative about the project, ... but they still have a long way to go to human trials and to show benefits in human patients."

Kanzius agreed that his treatment is still years away from being used to treat people with cancer. Still, the retired radio and television engineer and broadcaster said the project has come a long way from the days he tinkered with it at his Millcreek home in 2002.

Having the treatment published in detail by a major cancer medical journal will spur more research, Lichtenfeld said.

"It provides the blueprint for others to try and replicate what these researchers have accomplished and even advance it," Lichtenfeld said.

The treatment works by using directed radio waves to heat and destroy cancer cells tagged with microscopic pieces of metal called nanoparticles. These nanoparticles act like tiny transmitters that heat up and destroy the cancer cell without harming nearby, untagged cells.

Researchers at M.D. Anderson and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center are now working on ways to tag certain types of cancer cells with the nanoparticles.

"I can't go into specifics, but let's say the research is moving forward," Kanzius said.

Kanzius said he will soon decide whether to sell radio-wave generators to other medical centers in the United States and around the world.

The generators are made at Industrial Sales and Manufacturing, a Millcreek company.

"I don't know if we want these devices all over the world before we have the targeting fully complete," Kanzius said. "A better way ... might be to perhaps open these up to a few other, top-notch medical centers."

Jan Rothman, M.D., an oncologist with the Regional Cancer Center, has followed Kanzius' work for years.

He said gaining objective support through a peer-reviewed journal is a tremendous boost for the treatment.

"Outside doctors with no interest in this project have validated the article," Rothman said. "It's a major step forward."

Kanzius said he hopes Pennsylvania's governor and U.S. senators hear that message.

He has made no secret in recent months that he feels Gov. Ed Rendell and U.S. Sens. Arlen Specter and Bob Casey have ignored the project.

“I have received a lot of support from city and county officials, but nothing from those guys,” Kanzius said. “I’m not even looking for a grant. It would just be nice to get someone to sit down and see how we can keep this project in Pennsylvania. If research keeps going the way it is, this will be a superhuge industry for this state.”

