

**Dr Jon LaPook:** When prostate cancer spread over to his hip bone six months ago, his doctors decided to try something new. They injected him with a vaccine to ignite his immune system to fight the cancer. After three doses of a drug called Provenge<sup>®</sup>, his cancer is in check.

**Patient:** It worked for me and it could work for many people in the future.

**LaPook:** Vaccine therapy is a new frontier of cancer treatment. It doesn't require invasive surgery or toxic chemotherapy with all its side-effects.

Here's how it works: tumors sometimes trick<sup>(1)</sup> the body into thinking cancer cells are normal. Provenge<sup>®</sup> tells the immune system that cancer cells are the enemy and should be attacked.

One study showed that 127 patients with advanced prostate cancer survived an average of 4 and ½ months longer than those not on the drug.

**Dr David Penson:** This is a very desperate group of patients who have no other options. The cancer has spread all over their body, so that four-month-survival vantage<sup>(2)</sup> really means a lot to these patients.

**LaPook:** Right now, this vaccine is still experimental and only for prostate cancer that does not respond to hormone therapy.

**Dr Mitchell Benson:** Where this is going to have the most applicability in the future is for the patient to have the very first signs of relapse<sup>(3)</sup>, where the amount of cancer in the body is not so great. And in that instance, this could result in prolonged remissions.

**LaPook:** Scientists are also working on therapy to boost<sup>(4)</sup> the immune system to fight other kinds of cancers. The drug maker expects the FDA<sup>(5)</sup> will decide whether to approve this cancer vaccine by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Catie.

**Catie Kouric:** Dr Jon LaPook, thank you.

**CBSnews.**

#### Lexical helpline:

1. **trick into(v):** cheat, deceive someone or something
2. **vantage:** a position that gives advantage
3. **relapse:** a sudden worsening of a condition
4. **boost(v):** improve and strengthen
5. **The FDA:** The Food and Drug Administration (US authoritative body)