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Former Clevelander Develops First Atomic Medical Cure

BOSTON, April 30—(U.P.)—A Harvard medical researcher today claimed the first successful cure of a disease by the application of atomic energy.

Dr. Saul Hertz, former Clevelander now a research associate at both Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, described his treatment with radioactive iodine therapy of hyperthyroid—overactive goiter.

Victims of this disease, he said, may be cured by artificial radioactivity at a cost reduced from the present \$200 and \$300 to \$2.50 if the Army releases the necessary elements.

Dr. Hertz, who also is a Navy commander, said his form of internal X-ray treatment was highly successful in curing hyperthyroid or exophthalmic goiter, commonly called the "pop-eyed" type.

Once the Army makes available the radioactive iodine, this new method may eliminate the need for hospitalization or surgery, Dr. Hertz said. Formerly, exophthalmic goiter could be cured only by an operation.

Dr. Hertz explained that when internal beta irradiation is applied to goiter it kills the overactive cells and leaves only a normal goiter. Other organs of the body are not affected by such treatment, he said.

Sufficient radioactive iodine is present in uranium piles now being operated by the Government to cure all hyperthyroid goiter patients in America, Dr. Hertz said. However, this element has not yet been released by the Army.

When released, the radioactive iodine should be put in the hands of a medical committee that would properly evaluate its application and see that it is readily available to the public, Dr. Hertz suggested.

Atomic energy has been applied with some measure of success to leukemia, Dr. Hertz said, but, in all cases, the victims were helped but not cured. In the treatment of hyperthyroid, however, he said that the internal X-ray

treatments given patients in controlled studies over a five-year period had proved a definite cure.

Dr. Hertz said he developed the treatment in 1936 after hearing a speech on atomic energy by President Karl T. Compton of M. I. T.

Dr. Saul Hertz, 41, is a brother of former Common Pleas Judge David Ralph Hertz and served here as a resident in medicine at Mt. Sinai Hospital for several years following his graduation from Harvard Medical School.

Earlier he had attended Glenville High School and the University of Michigan for his premedical training.