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DR MUSTSAFA el Sayed (left) and Dr Ashraf Shaalan, Head of NRC during a press conference held recently on using gold nanoparticles to cure cancer.

Gold used in cancer trials

TINY particles of gold injected into mice, cats and dogs may help to cure forms of cancer, tests at the Giza-based National Research Centre show. An Egyptian-American chemical physicist, Dr Mustafa el-Sayed, says using gold nanoparticles to treat cancers showed promising results.

Trials on humans will follow trials on large animals given approval by the Ministry of Health and Scientific Research and the National Tumours Institute.

El Sayed said gold nanoparticles dis-

criminate between sound and cancerous cells. Injected into cancerous cells they absorb laser energy to kill the cancerous cells without affecting the sound cells.

He said it's the first time the technology has been tested directly on animals.

Dr Hussein Khaled, former Head of National Tumours Institute said the new therapy has no side effects and could be used to treat hepatitis C.

One gramme of gold could be treated 1,000 cancer patients.