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# Conf. reviews new tumour treatment, drugs

A NEW treatment for stomach tumours as well as drugs to cure prostate and kidney tumours were the focus of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Gastrointestinal, Liver and Uro-Oncology Conference held in Cairo recently.

The drugs provide an alternative to chemotherapy and interventional radiology, according to Dr Hisham el-Ghazali, Professor of Oncology, Ain Shams University.

This year the conference tackled developments in curing digestive system tumours.

The treatment of patients depends on the genetic diagnosis of each patient to discover the receptors in the patient's body tissues. This has led to the appearance of new treatments which have helped to raise the recovery rate from fourth stage diges-



DR Osama Heta, (1<sup>st</sup> L), Dr Heba el-Zawahri, Dr Hisham el Ghazali ( 2<sup>nd</sup> L) and Dr Yasser Abdel Kader (1<sup>st</sup> R) are being shown during the 5<sup>th</sup> Gastrointestinal Liver and Uro Oncology conference held recently in Cairo.

tive system tumours to 70 per cent.

Dr el-Ghazali said that medication to treat stomach tumours that were not responding to chemotherapy had been approved 15 years ago.

He added that global trends to cure digestive system tumours and for use

in urology have started moving from chemotherapies into targeted therapies not only with drugs, but also with interventional radiology.

Protocols and recommendations related to the use of a number of new medications to cure tumours were

drawn up during the conference.

The conferees announced an 80 per cent recovery rate from prostate tumours as the result of using hormonal therapy in addition to chemotherapy, especially in young patients in whom the tumours were spreading.

Dr Tarek Soliman, Assistant Minister of Health for the Pharmaceutical Sector, said that there was a shortage of tumour medications in general, at the international level. He said that there was a limited number of plants producing tumour drugs because of difficulties in finding suitable, unpolluted areas to grow the plants, away from residential areas, and difficulties in the manufacturing process.

He said the Ministry of Health has appealed to a number of local pharma-

ceutical companies to establish a production line for manufacturing medication for the treatment of tumours, to meet the needs of the local market, especially in the post-operative stage to produce the best cosmetic results.

Dr Yasser Abdel Kader, Professor of Oncology at Cairo University, stressed that the new treatment for curing stomach tumours could also be used to cure patients with colorectal cancer as well as lung cancer, especially when chemotherapy had failed.

Dr Osama Heta, Professor of Interventional Radiology at Ain Shams University, noted that curing liver tumours by using interventional radiology had achieved a high recovery average of 95 per cent, especially in small tumours that are cured by the use of a microwave thermal frequency device.