

Re: cheap safe drug kills most cancers

would begin ASAP (phase 1 not necessary (or not as necessary) as toxicity/tolerance has already been established in unrelated studies). One problem is however the drug itself is not patentable as it has been in existence a long time. The U of A researchers have taken out a patent on its proposed *new* use but that is considered a "soft" patent and would not stop others from using it (this from the principle investigator). The upshot of not being strongly patentable is of course drug manufacturers would not be interested in pursuing costly clinical trials (which can run into hundreds of millions of dollars). The investigators therefore hope to attract government, academic or medical research foundation monies to pursue this further.

Another potential issue is that the drug has apparently not yet been tried in humans with cancer (only in test tube or mice with implanted human cancers). So, it may not work in humans or the toxicity profile might be unfavourable in cancer patients.

I guess we will have to wait to see how it pans out in the trials, or, maybe until people start trying it on their own (which I suspect will happen; I know I would if faced with no other choices).

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