UAMS Myeloma 1 DJB 9/23/20(WedPM/ThursAM)

A researcher with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is using a $1.7 million dollar grant to find new ways to treat a deadly blood disorder. The grant from the National Cancer Institute goes to U-A-M-S assistant professor Dr. Jesus Delgado-Calle, who's studying ways to strengthen bone health as a way to prevent or delay relapse in patients with myeloma. Delgado-Calle says he's studying two drugs that could lessen the unusually high chance of myeloma recurring in patients after they go into remission.

News04 0:27 "…for the patients."

Myeloma is an incurable cancer that forms in blood plasma cells, and causes cancer cells to accumulate in the bone marrow. Nearly all patients with multiple myeloma end up relapsing with the disease. Myeloma is also highly difficult to detect early as its symptoms are often confused with other diseases. Approximately 50% of multiple myeloma patients live for another five years after diagnosis.

UAMS Myeloma 2 DJB 9/23/20(WedPM/ThursAM)

A $1.7 million dollar grant will help a U-A-M-S researcher's work in trying to cure an as-of-yet incurable blood cancer. Dr. Jesus Delgado-Calle received the grant from the National Cancer Institute to study two experimental treatments for myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells of the blood that causes bone damage and weakens the immune system. Delgado-Calle says the treatments could potentially be effective against other cancers that commonly spread to the bone in later stages.

News05 0:23 "…the bone disease."

One drug in the study will potentially interrupt the pathways that cancer cells use to interact with the bone marrow in which they live. The other would target a protein that prevents rebuilding of damaged bone tissue that is overproduced in myeloma patients. Myeloma is the second-most common blood cancer behind leukemia and has close to a 100% probability of recurring in patients who have successfully completed treatment.