A new device worn on a patient's head to treat glioblastoma, the most common and aggressive type of brain cancer, prevents cancer cells from multiplying by sending electric waves to the brain. This video is part of an NBC News special series of reports, "Target Cancer: Chasing the Cure."

Keywords
Cancer, Brain Cancer, Glioblastoma, Brain, Treatment, Device, Cap, Amy Herbst, Experimental Treatment, Study, Research, Electric Waves, Electricity, Cells, Cancer Cells, Multiply, Surgery, Radiation, Chemotherapy, Nimish Mohile, University of Rochester Medical Center, University of Rochester, Clinical Trial, Life, Extend, John Sampson, Duke Cancer Institute, Duke University, FDA, Food and Drug Administration, Approval, Health Research, Innovation, Health, Technology

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MLA
"Experimental Headgear Extends Lives of Patients with Brain Cancer." Janet Shamlian, correspondent.
Transcript

Experimental Headgear Extends Lives of Patients with Brain Cancer

KATE SNOW, anchor:
We're back with a promising advance in the battle against cancer, a device that uses electric waves to target the most aggressive type of brain cancer. Tonight, we meet a woman who hopes it can buy her more time with the people she loves. NBC's Janet Shamlian has the first part of our special series of reports Target Cancer- Chasing the Cure.

JANET SHAMLIAN, reporting:
Amy Herbst, a busy mom of two, has gotten used to her new headgear which she sometimes covers with a hat or wig.

AMY HERBST: All right, bye. See you, buddy.

SHAMLIAN: Diagnosed with glioblastoma, she is trying an experimental treatment that a study out today finds is extending the lives of patients who have the deadliest and most aggressive form of brain cancer. The device works by sending electric waves to the brain, preventing cancer cells from multiplying. It's worn almost around the clock and used along with surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. It can't cure patients like Amy--

HERBST: Hmm. Have a great day, girl.

SHAMLIAN: --but the study shows it can add an average of five precious months to their lives.

DR. NIMISH MOHILE (University of Rochester Medical Center): This is the first clinical trial in a decade to lengthen the life of patients with glioblastoma. And so I think that this is going to be really exciting.

SHAMLIAN: Glioblastoma is the most common form of brain cancer. The median survival is just 15 months. A prognosis, doctors hope, the device will change.

DR. JOHN SAMPSON (Duke Cancer Institute): We do expect now that it has been FDA approved and with the results of this study that the use will be more frequent and more widespread.

HERBST: This is always connected to the wires. So this--

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SHAMLIAN: Amy has been wearing the cap and battery pack since October. It's doing its job while the 41-year-old does hers.
HERBST: You did your check, awesome.
SHAMLIAN: Teaching math to middle-schoolers in Rochester, New York.
HERBST: I feel truly blessed that technology and treatments are growing every day, and that I have an opportunity to beat cancer.
SHAMLIAN: The device is expensive, as much as twenty thousand dollars a month and, yet, priceless, prolonging life--
DR. NIMISH MOHILE: The MRI--