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Germans develop new colon cancer test

Giessen, Germany, Aug. 24 (UPI) -- Researchers in Germany have discovered a test for colon cancer that is non invasive, reports the British Journal of Cancer.

Scientists at Giessen University Hospital said a chemical from cancer tumors -- called Tumor M2-PK -- leaks into one's bowel and can be tested via feces, the BBC reported.

Currently, a fecal occult blood test is used to detect blood in feces -- a symptom of bowel cancer. However, the fecal occult blood test cannot tell whether the blood is caused by a tumor or something less serious.

"We found a significant difference in the level of Tumor M2-PK between those with a confirmed diagnosis of bowel cancer and those who were disease free," said study leader Dr. Philip Hardt.

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"There was also a very strong link between the amount of enzyme found and how far the cancer had spread."

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