Researchers at the University of South Florida have developed a novel method for diagnosing cancer of the colon, ovaries or testis.

Early diagnosis of cancer can provide patients with adequate time to make well informed decisions regarding the treatment of cancer. The American Cancer Society has reported that colon cancer is the second most common cause of cancer in the United States. Moreover, a diagnosis of colon cancer has been estimated to shorten that patient's life by six to seven years. Consequently, early detection of colon cancer offers a patient the best hope of survival. Currently, CT scan, or an ultrasound scan is the method of choice for the diagnosis of these types of cancers; it is expensive and impractical to do on a frequent basis. It is therefore imperative to provide a simple, inexpensive test to offer instant results and quantitative measurement.

Our Researchers have developed a method for early diagnosis of selected cancers. The method involves assaying a sample from the patient for elevated expression of a specific gene. The sample can be either tissue from a particular organ, such as the colon or the ovary, or a sample of blood. The specific gene, TGF-B4 (EBAF) endometrial bleeding associated factor is detected in certain types of colon, ovarian, and testicular cancers. The protein TGF-B4 allows the diagnosis of these tumors and their possible origin. In addition, re-detection of TGF-B4 in post cancer treatment offers immediate evidence of recurrence of the disease. The test has great value in follow-up with patients after institution of an appropriate treatment strategy.

ADVANTAGES:

- Inexpensive
- Quantitative measurement
- Effective in diagnosing recurrence of cancer

Inexpensive Test for Diagnosing Selected Cancers

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