

Central Florida News

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Stem Cells Could Help Stop Melanoma, Breast Cancer

CHRISTINE WEBB, YOUR HEALTH AND FITNESS

Researchers have found out that stem cells could help those with melanoma, and aggressive breast cancers.

In the new study, the researchers exposed metastatic melanoma and breast cancer cells to a type of protein secreted only in human embryonic stem cells -- not in any other types of stem cells, including those isolated from amniotic fluid, umbilical cord blood or adult bone marrow.

In an earlier study, the team at Northwestern University in Chicago found that aggressive melanoma and breast cancer produce a protein called Nodal, which may serve as a marker of aggressive behavior in human cancers.

This new study, done by researchers at Northwestern, added to the team's previous efforts to identify the genes and cellular pathways involved in cancer metastasis, and may help lead to new kinds of cancer treatments.