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GSK, Adaptimmune to develop oncology solutions

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Singapore: Britain's biggest drug maker Glaxosmithkline (GSK) has signed a partnership with Adaptimmune worth more than $284 mn to develop cancer drugs based on cell therapies. The collaboration was a result of an earlier success that the clinical program had generated in the US cancer trials.

The new drugs developed by the companies would work on the principle of re-engineering the patient's own white blood cells to turn them into cancer-attacking weapons, harnessing the body's immune system to hunt and destroy the cancer cells.

The privately owned firm said that the financial settlements from GSK, would be received over a period of seven years subjected to development goals being met and certain milestones being achieved.

GSK had recently sold its existing cancer drug business to Novartis for $12.9 bn as it observed its scaled very low in the oncology market.