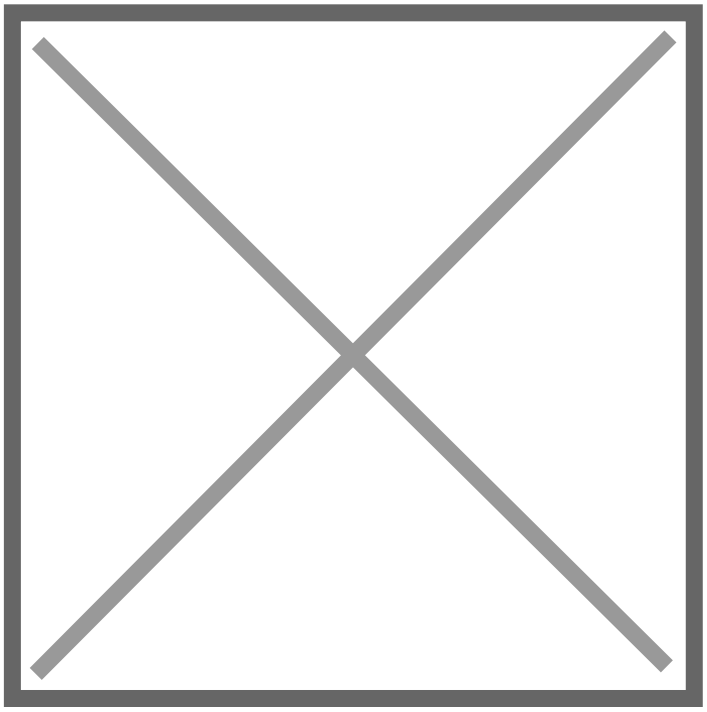
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ASIA EDITION

Indo-NZ researchers explore DNA-based approach to improve prostate cancer detection

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India is witnessing a steady increase in prostate cancer cases



Researchers at the University of Otago, New Zealand are investigating a blood-based prostate cancer detection approach using DNA methylation biomarkers. DNA methylation, a biological process that influences gene activity, has emerged as a promising area of cancer research, with scientists exploring how specific methylation patterns can serve as indicators of disease presence and progression.

The goal is to develop a more precise diagnostic tool that could complement or potentially improve upon existing screening methods.

The research also reflects the growing role of Indian-origin scientists in advancing global healthcare innovation. Cancer genomics researcher Aniruddha Chatterjee from the University of Otago is part of the team leading this work, alongside collaborators such as Atreyi Dutta.

For countries like India, where cancer incidence continues to rise and access to early screening remains uneven, developments in non-invasive diagnostics could hold significant promise. While further research and validation are required, advances in biomarker-driven testing may contribute to earlier detection, improved patient outcomes, and more efficient cancer care pathways in the years ahead.

India is witnessing a steady increase in prostate cancer cases, with studies indicating that incidence rates have been rising by approximately 2.6% annually over the past few decades. Despite growing awareness around cancer screening, a significant challenge remains: nearly 43% of prostate cancer cases in India are diagnosed only after the disease has already spread beyond the prostate. This trend highlights a critical gap in early detection and underscores the need for more accessible, accurate, and less invasive diagnostic approaches.