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## Research team, Led by an Indian-origin Sravanth Hindupur, finds new anti-cancer protein LHPP

LHPP not only prevents the uncontrolled proliferation of cancer cells in the liver, but also serves as a biomarker for the diagnosis and prognosis of liver cancer. | Photo Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto

Led by an Indian-origin researcher, a team has discovered a new anti-cancer protein that not only prevents the uncontrolled proliferation of cancer cells in the liver, but also serves as a biomarker for the diagnosis and prognosis of liver cancer, according to a press release by4 the University of Basel on Thursday.

Liver tumours develop from mutated cells that grow and proliferate uncontrollably.

Anti-cancer proteins, so-called tumour suppressors, prevent uncontrolled cell growth, but are often defective in cancer ells, reports Xinhua.

The researchers have discovered a new, so far unknown tumour suppressor, the protein LHPP. They have shown that the loss of LHPP promotes tumour growth and reduces the chance of survival of cancer patients. LHPP could therefore potentially be used as a prognostic biomarker.

"It is striking that LHPP is present in healthy tissue and completely absent in tumour tissue," said first author Sravanth Hindupur.

Re-introduction of the genetic information for LHPP by the researchers prevents the formation of tumours and maintains liver function.

Additionally, both disease severity and life expectancy correlate with LHPP levels. With complete loss of the tumour suppressor, cancer patients die on average two years earlier. LHPP is useful as a biomarker to classify tumors.

The research has been published in the latest issue of the scientific journal *Nature*.

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