BREAST CANCER IS THE SECOND MOST COMMON CANCER DIAGNOSED IN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES, AND ABOUT 15 TO 20 PERCENT ARE CASES OF TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER. UNLIKE MOST BREAST CANCERS, TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER CELLS LACK RECEPTORS THAT ENABLE DRUG TREATMENTS LIKE CHEMOTHERAPY TO KILL CANCER CELLS.

NOW, RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI HAVE FOUND A COMBINATION DRUG THERAPY THAT REDUCES THE SPREAD OF TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER TO OTHER LOCATIONS OF THE BODY BY 50 PERCENT.

PROFESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES SALMAN HYDER AND HIS TEAM RESEARCHED THE EFFECT OF COMBINING TWO DRUG TREATMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO TREAT TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER.

“Most cancers have a target that you can go in with a drug and kill those cells. Triple negatives don’t have those targets and that is the reason why they become so aggressive because they keep on growing.

HYDER ADDED THAT THE COMBINATION DRUG THERAPY COULD HELP ENHANCE PERSONALIZED TREATMENT FOR THOSE WITH TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE CANCER CELLS TO OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY.

“These two compounds that we have used are in clinical trials, but not as a combination therapy as we are using it, so hopefully this will encourage the medical doctors to try it, in a clinical trial, to combine the two and see if that can be very effective because as I said, it is a very deadly disease, especially this type of breast cancer.”

I’M CAILIN RILEY, WITH A MIZZOU SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE.
Unlike most breast cancers, triple negative breast cancer cells lack the receptors

“There is no non-toxic chemotherapy available, so we wanted to see if we could actually find a target in these cells that we could go after and kill these cells, before they metasize and especially after they metasize”

“So we found a target in these cells, called a p 53 protein, this is non-active in these cells, this is the target that actually kills most cells, so we tried to reactivate this target, and also target the blood vessels with an antibody, so you have now two targets available in these cells in these triple negative tumors that you can try to go after and kill them, and so what we found was this was a very effective way of controlling the metastasis, which leads to patient deaths.”

“These 2 compounds that we have used are in clinical trials, but not as a combination therapy as we are using it, so hopefully this will encourage the medical doctors to try it, in a clinical trial, to combine the two and see if that can be very effective, because as I said, it is a very deadly disease, especially this type of breast cancer, the triple negative breast cancer.”

“Most breast cancers have some kind of a marker which you can use for chemotherapy, but this triple negative breast cancers do not have those markers so there is no chemotherapy available for them that is non-toxic”

“Almost 15-20 percent of breast cancers are triple negative, and there’s a huge amount of effort now in research to try and find therapies for this type of cancer.”

“Most cancers have a target that you can go with a drug and kill those cells, triple negatives don’t have those targets, and that is the reason why they become so aggressive because they keep on growing, even if you use chemotherapy, they still cannot kill all the cells of triple negative breast cancer type, so they emerge and then they metastasize, and what we have found is there are compounds that could potentially go toward a target and we have shown that it reduces incidents of breast cancer by 50%, that’s a pretty big number in cancer research”