



## **Link confirmed between gene and cancer**

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### **PERTH scientists have successfully linked the HLS5 cancer marker gene to the development of the disease in humans.**

A pre-clinical trial conducted by the WA Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR), and involving 70 people, found the presence of a fault in the HLS5 gene was directly connected to breast, prostate, lung and colon cancer, as well as a panel of cancer cell lines.

More than half the patients with particular types of cancer were found to have a fault in their HLS5 gene, and the WAIMR scientists were able to determine the specific types of cancer in which the HLS5 gene fault occurred.

Furthermore, a sensitive test for detecting the HLS5 cancer gene marker was developed and used in the pre-clinical trial.

Perth biomedical commercialisation firm BioPharmica, which is working with WAIMR, said genetic testing for cancer with diagnostic tests using genes such as HLS5 were extremely promising as they might lead to cancer being found at an earlier, more treatable stage.