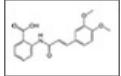


# A Japanese/South Korean asthma drug targets cancer stem cells and inhibits hard-to-treat breast cancer cells.

Printed from <https://www.cancerquest.org/newsroom/2010/12/japanesesouth-korean-asthma-drug-targets-cancer-stem-cells-and-inhibits-hard-treat> on 02/16/2026



The non-toxic oral drug tranilast (brand name Rizaben®) is used to treat asthma in both Japan and South Korea. The drug also has known anti-cancer properties. Canadian researchers demonstrated that tranilast is capable of blocking breast cancer stem cells from forming colonies and spreading in a laboratory setting. Cancer stem cells are more resistant to conventional chemotherapy drugs. The researchers showed similar results HER-2+ and triple-negative breast cancer cell lines. The work is significant because HER-2+ and triple-negative cancer are frequently more difficult to treat due to limited treatment options.

Source

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0013831>

Learn More

[Learn More](#)