## Tumors prepare distant sites for metastatic growth.

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The spread (metastasis) of cancer to distant locations is responsible for about 9 out of 10 cancer deaths. It is very important that we understand how and why a cancer spreads to particular locations. New research shows that tumors can prepare a site for metastasizing cells before the cells even leave the tumor. By activating an enzyme in the lungs (focal adhesion kinase; FAK), the original (primary) tumor caused the alteration of blood vessels in parts of the lungs, making it easier for cancer cells to enter those locations and form secondary growths (metastases).

## Source

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