

## Key factor in lung cancer metastasis identified.

Printed from <https://www.cancerquest.org/newsroom/2011/03/key-factor-lung-cancer-metastasis-identified> on 02/24/2026



Lung cancer is the #1 leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. and spread of the disease (metastasis) is a major determinant of how patients will do. New research has identified a gene *Gaga3*, as being partially responsible for the giving lung cancer cells the ability to metastasize.

The product of the *Gaga3* gene blocks the activity of a group of small RNA encoding genes (microRNAs) and leads to a change in the behavior of the cancer cells called the Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition or EMT. The EMT is known to cause cells to behave in a more aggressive manner and contribute to their ability to move and metastasize. Importantly, the researchers were able to show that blocking the activity of *Gaga3* inhibited the EMT and metastasis, thereby identifying it as a potential cancer drug target.

Source

<http://www.jci.org/articles/view/42579>

Learn More

[Learn More](#)