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Astronomers reach for the stars to discover new cancer therapy

Astronomers' research on celestial bodies may have an impact on the human body. Ohio State University astronomers are working with medical physicists and radiation oncologists to develop a potential new radiation treatment – one that is intended to be tougher on tumors, but gentler on healthy tissue.

"As astronomers, we apply basic physics and chemistry to understand what's happening in stars. We're very excited to apply the same knowledge to potentially treat cancer," Nahar said.

"Together with long-time collaborator and medical physicist Yan Yu from Thomas Jefferson University Medical College, we've developed the RNPT methodology, which we hope will have far-reaching consequences for X-ray imaging and radiation therapy," Pradhan said.

"This work could eventually lead to a combination of radiation therapy with chemotherapy using platinum as the active agent," Pradhan said.

"That's when we realized that the implications went way beyond atomic astrophysics," Pradhan said.

[Astronomers reach for the stars to discover new cancer therapy \(http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-06-astronomers-stars-cancer-therapy.html\)](http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-06-astronomers-stars-cancer-therapy.html)

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[Astronomy could yield cancer treatments \(http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2011/06/24/Astronomy-could-lead-cancer-treatments/UPI-53141308950652/\)](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2011/06/24/Astronomy-could-lead-cancer-treatments/UPI-53141308950652/)

COLUMBUS, Ohio, June 24 (UPI) – U.S. astronomers say information gleaned from studying the universe and its billions of stars could lead to new cancer treatment therapies.

Fri 24 Jun 11 from UPI

[Star X-Rays Improve Cancer Treatment \(http://www.laboratoryequipment.com/news-star-xrays-improve-cancer-treatment-062711.aspx\)](http://www.laboratoryequipment.com/news-star-xrays-improve-cancer-treatment-062711.aspx)

Astronomers are working with other scientists to develop a potential new treatment based on the way chemical elements emit and absorb radiation inside stars.

12 hours ago from Laboratory Equipment

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