ISU RECEIVES GRANT MONEY FOR BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

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Idaho state university received a grant of over 128-thousand dollars. It will give researches more money for a new way to fight breast cancer.

Bryan Latham looks at how an old drug is giving new hope.

Dr. Nandita Das – ISU

"We are essentially taking our own human physiology to our advantage."

At the ISU College of Pharmacy their studying Tamoxifen, it's a drug that’s been around for years, but always administered to the blood stream. By using fat globulins researchers are looking at localizing it, studying how the drug is absorbed to get more of it where it's needed.

Dr. Nandita Das – ISU

"As we absorb the fat, a good portion of this drug along with the fat will go into the lymphatic system directly rather than being absorbed into the blood system."

Which moves 500 times slower than blood stream, meaning more of the drug is used and side effects are reduced

Dr. Nandita Das – ISU

"We will get more of the percentage of the drug localized at the tumor sight which means less exposure of the healthy tissues to the drug which means some of the side effects we experience in chemotherapy can be reduced."

Also with more of the drug absorbed by the body, Dr. Das predicts a lower dosage is needed.
Dr. Nandita Das – ISU

"We may have the same effectiveness form 10mg because more of the drug is going into the tumor tissues and less to the body, so we can get away with using less drug."

Currently, they are conducting tests on lab mice. They say if the results are positive, the researchers plan to study the effects on people, which they hope can be done in two years.