

# Local researchers working on test kit that can pinpoint risk of heart diseases

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Singapore researchers are working on a test kit that can pinpoint the risk of heart diseases in a person before it happens.

They're following up on a five-year study conducted on Caucasian blood samples by the Interuniversity Cardiology Institute of the Netherlands.

That study found 10 types of unique proteins which are commonly present in the blood of a person who had recently suffered stroke or heart attack.

A team of researchers from Nanyang Technological University or NTU and the National University Hospital is now expanding the research to Singapore's multi-racial population - which is the first of its kind in Asia.

It's now collecting blood and tissue samples to find the best predictive bio-markers for the Asian population.

The study plans to yield over 100 biomarkers within a year.

It will then choose the best 10 predictors.

Researchers hope the information can be used to develop a blood test kit for health screening at local polyclinics and hospitals.

Lead researcher, Assistant Professor Sze Siu Kwan of NTU's School of Biological Sciences, hopes this will produce more accurate readings of heart diseases, compared with the current tests based on weight, blood pressure and cholesterol level.

**"The existing one is more based on symptom or some cholesterol level. The predictability is limited. So we aim to use this protein bio-marker, molecular-level. It's more accurate. So then we can separate those patients with high risk so they can take some medical, take some drug to prevent the heart attack from happening."**