



United Press International®
News. Analysis. Insight.™

NEWSTRACK - SCIENCE

Published: July 3, 2007 at 2:16 PM

Kidney disease test may also mark diabetes

BUFFALO, N.Y., July 3 (UPI) -- U.S. medical scientists have found a blood marker used to predict early kidney impairment might also mark a condition known as pre-diabetes.

University of Buffalo researchers have discovered high levels of cystatin C -- used to test for early-stage kidney disease -- are also associated with a three-fold risk of progression to pre-diabetes.

Pre-diabetes is diagnosed when the amount of glucose in the bloodstream begins to rise and remain above normal -- an indication that glucose is not being absorbed properly by cells.

"It's important to identify people at risk of pre-diabetes very early, because you can prevent this condition from developing by making changes in diet and lifestyle," said Professor Richard Donahue, first author of the study. "If further studies support our finding, testing for cystatin C could become an important part of a standard physical examination. Preventive measures could be in place before glucose intolerance has a chance to develop and take its toll."

The study -- funded by a grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases -- is reported in the July issue of the journal Diabetes Care.

SEARCH:

Stories