

Aussie research spices up organ transplants

Updated Mon Jun 21, 2010 8:00am AEST

Researchers believe a spice extract could be used as a treatment to improve the life of transplanted organs.

Scientists from Adelaide's Centre for Stem Cell Research have found that curcumin extracted from turmeric stops cells from dying in the donated organ and helps immune cells in the recipient fight organ rejection.

The extract is injected into the donor's blood stream, flows to the organ and reaches the recipient after the transplant.

The research has been done on mice and the findings will be tested on monkeys before human trials begin.

Dr Natasha Rogers says by reducing rejection and damage during transplantation, an organ should last longer.

"The way we also envisage this treatment is people need anti-rejection medication for a very long time, this has lots and lots of side-effects and they have to take multiple tablets and we would hope that an injectable treatment that's used infrequently would be a much better option for some people rather than taking a lot of tablets," she said.

Tags: [health](#), [medical-procedures](#), [research](#), [australia](#), [sa](#), [adelaide-5000](#)

First posted Mon Jun 21, 2010 7:59am AEST

[MORE stories from South Australia](#)



*Spice extract key to better organ transplants
([www.flickr.com: John and Gill](http://www.flickr.com/photos/johngill/))*

- [Video: Spice extract key to better organ transplants \(7pm TV News SA\)](#)
- [Map: Adelaide 5000](#)