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ASIA EDITION

Detect heart attacks using a thermometer!

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Singapore: South Korean researchers have developed a new thermometer-like device that can detect heart attacks by a simple and easy test. Scientists from the Pohang University of Science and Technology said that the new method detects heart attacks by measuring the level of a protein called troponin in blood.

Troponin's concentration rises when blood is cut off from the heart, and the muscle is damaged. When human serum mixed with troponin and nanoparticles and put in the vial, the ink climbs up a protruding tube and can be read with the naked eye, just like a thermometer. Using conventional methods detecting troponin requires bulky, expensive instruments and is not suitable for low-income areas.

More than three-quarters of the deaths related to cardiovascular disease occur in low-and middle-income countries and early diagnosis could help curb these numbers, said the researchers. The findings were detailed in the journal Analytical Chemistry.