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## **Researchers design an alternative to blood test to detect drugs**

The presence of narcotic substances in a person's body can usually be detected by a blood or urine test. By means of a simple technique, doctors can say if someone is under the influence of a drug (through blood) or if they usually take it (through the bile test).

However, a research group of the department of Legal Medicine and Psychiatry of the University of Granada (UGR), has developed a new technique to obtain this information by testing the pericardial fluid.

The importance of his research lies in the multiple advantages of this fluid with regard to the others. Pericardial fluid, a watertight compartment separated from blood. Blood analysis usually presents cells, proteins, fats, etc., which complicate this method.

The work, supervised by professor Hernández, has allowed to determine that the pericardial fluid is an alternative for forensic purposes, as it offers enough guarantees and presents a similar concentration of narcotic substances. The professor of the UGR is that this test is easier than blood test as it shows less interference and takes less time, which makes it possible to determine if the presence of drugs is connected with the death.

Source: Universidad de Granada

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