## Hnf040313

Health newsfeed for Wednesday, April 3, 2013

**HEADLINE: BLOCKING SURVEILLANCE** 

ANCHOR LEAD: A SURPRISE ANTIBODY MAY BLOCK THE IMMUNE SYSTEM FROM KILLING CANCER, ELIZABETH TRACEY REPORTS

Our immune systems are wonders of surveillance and protection, not just against infections but also with regard to cancer, but now a new study has described a novel mechanism cancer cells use to evade our immune response to survive and grow. William Nelson, director of the Kimmel Cancer at Johns Hopkins, comments.

NELSON: This reports one that hadn't been described before: production of immunoglobulins, these are antibodies if will made by a certain type of cell in the immune system called a B cell, and this particular antibody, rather than binding to cancer cells so that they can be eaten and eliminated by very specialized killing cells, appears to block the killing cells from killing the cancer. :23

Nelson says the good news is there are already a number of drugs on the shelf and under investigation that may help selectively remove this antibody or inhibit the pathway to its production, rendering the cancer vulnerable again. At Johns Hopkins, I'm Elizabeth Tracey.