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T-rays to detect WMDs, cancer. 14/12/2004. ABC News Online

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T-rays to detect WMDs, cancer

Radiation technology being researched at Adelaide University could soon make it easier to detect weapons of mass destruction, as well as different types of cancer.

Professor Derek Abbott says most molecules vibrate under T-ray, or Terahertz, frequency creating a unique fingerprint of the item being looked at.

Professor Abbott says the technology is already capable of being used in airports to identify weapons like knives and guns, as well as biological dangers such as anthrax.

He says T-rays are safer than X-rays and the image created is often more detailed.

"An X-ray picture of a cancerous tumour will just show you a shape showing there's a tumour there, but it doesn't tell you if it's benign or malignant," he said.

"But with T-rays you cannot only see that there's a lump there, but you'll be able to tell what type of lump it is, whether it's a good one or a bad one."

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