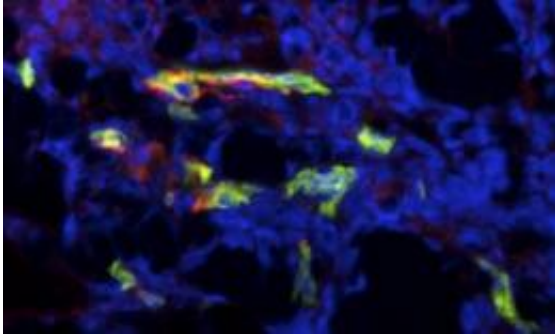


Targeting cancerous vessels

January 4 2010



Vascular endothelial cells (green) express {delta}-catenin (red). Credit: DeBusk, L.M., et al. 2010. *J. Exp. Med.* doi:10.1084/jem.20091097

By lowering the level of a neuronal protein, researchers halted the growth of blood vessels that tumors rely on for survival. The findings are reported online in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* on Jan. 4.

Formerly known for its effects on neuronal growth, the team found that the protein {delta}-catenin is also produced by [cells](#) in human blood vessels. By diminishing {delta}-catenin expression, the team disrupted vessel development, or angiogenesis, associated with [inflammation](#) in tumors and wounds. As expected, samples of human lung tumors expressed more {delta}-catenin than the surrounding tissues. And normal angiogenesis remained the same regardless of {delta}-catenin.

Because blocking {delta}-catenin stunts only inflammation-induced angiogenesis, the [protein](#) may be a promising anti-cancer target, says

Charles Lin, an author on the study at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Tennessee.

More information: DeBusk, L.M., et al. 2010. J. Exp. Med.
[doi:10.1084/jem.20091097](https://doi.org/10.1084/jem.20091097)

Provided by Rockefeller University

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