

# Bevacizumab use in preemies associated with disabilities

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(HealthDay)—Becavacizumab (Avastin) used to treat retinopathy of

prematurity (ROP) may be linked to serious disabilities such as cerebral palsy and hearing loss, according to a study published online March 17 in *Pediatrics*.

Julie Morin, M.D., of the Sainte-Justine University Hospital Center in Montreal, and colleagues looked at 27 infants whose ROP was treated with [bevacizumab](#), and 98 treated with laser surgery.

The researchers found that the odds of severe neurodevelopmental disabilities were 3.1 times higher in infants treated with bevacizumab versus laser, after adjustment for gestational age, gender, maternal education, Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology-II, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, sepsis, and [severe brain injury](#).

"Preterm infants treated with bevacizumab versus laser had higher odds of severe neurodevelopmental disabilities," the authors conclude.

"Further investigation on the long-term safety of antivascular endothelial growth factor treatment of ROP is needed."

Avastin manufacturer Genentech could not be reached for comment.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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