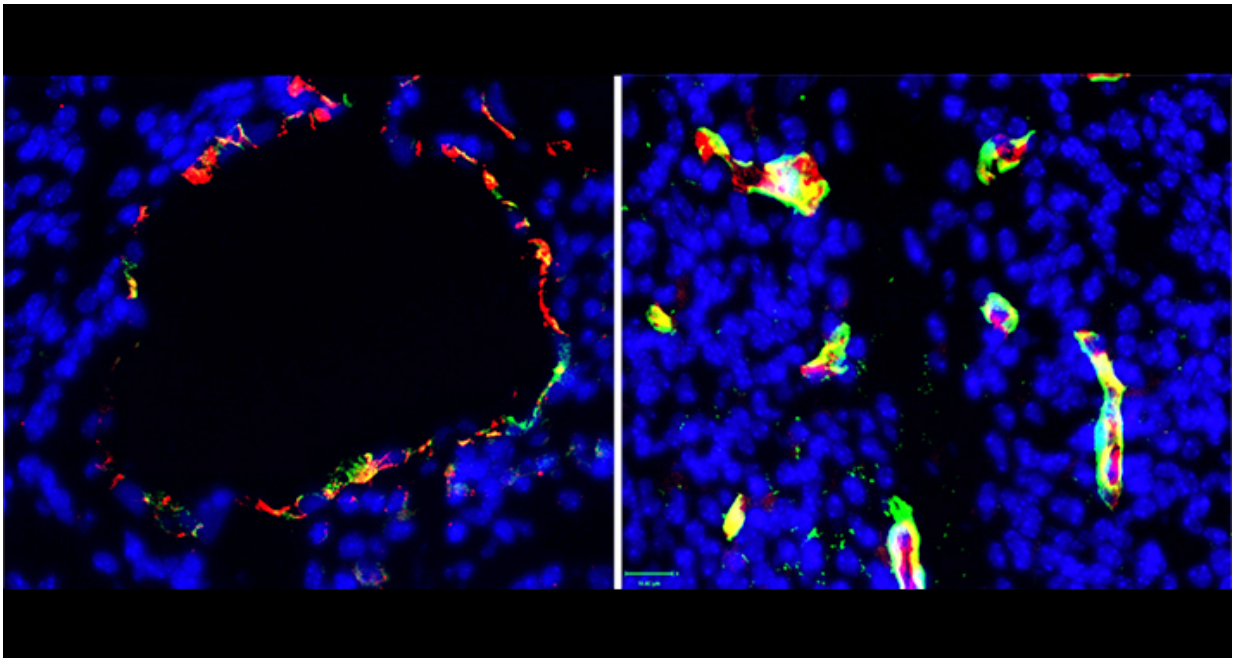


Study uncovers marker for a chronic brain disease

August 23 2016, by Ziba Kashef



Diseased mice treated with mock (left) or angiopoietin-2-neutralizing antibody (right). The antibody blunts cerebral cavernous malformation progression.
Credit: Yale University

A team of researchers led by Yale professor of pathology Wang Min have pinpointed a marker that contributes to a chronic condition affecting the brain.

Known as cerebral cavernous malformations, the condition is

characterized by a tangle of capillaries in the brain's white matter, which can cause headaches, seizures, bleeding, and even death. No [effective therapy](#) exists. (It has been reported that Olympic runner Florence Griffith Joyner, who died suddenly in 1998, had this condition.)

Using an animal model of the disease, Min and his co-authors identified a [growth factor](#) (angiopoietin-2) that when blocked by an antibody, eliminates the malformations. "We have discovered a new and effective therapy for this potentially debilitating disorder," he noted.

More information: Huanjiao Jenny Zhou et al. Endothelial exocytosis of angiopoietin-2 resulting from CCM3 deficiency contributes to cerebral cavernous malformation, *Nature Medicine* (2016). [DOI: 10.1038/nm.4169](#)

Provided by Yale University

Citation: Study uncovers marker for a chronic brain disease (2016, August 23) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-08-uncovers-marker-chronic-brain-disease.html>

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