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Erythropoietin Helps Treat Brain Injury

The molecule **erythropoietin** plays a role in the brain's response to injury. OU Distinguished Professor **Mike Chopp** and his team recently tested a recombinant (or genetically engineered) type of erythropoietin to treat head injuries ("**Effects of Erythropoietin on Reducing Brain Damage and Improving Functional Outcome after Traumatic Brain Injury in Mice - Laboratory investigation**", **Journal of Neurosurgery**, vol. 109, pp. 510-521, 2008). The results look promising, at least in mice. They conclude "Recombinant human erythropoietin initiated 6 hours post-TBI [traumatic brain injury] provided neuroprotection by decreasing lesion volume and cell loss as well as neurorestoration by enhancing neurogenesis, subsequently improving sensorimotor and spatial learning function."

SUMMARY

The molecule erythropoietin plays a role in the brain's response to injury. OU Distinguished Professor Mike Chopp and his team recently tested a recombinant (or genetically engineered) type of erythropoietin to treat head injuries.

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