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Multiple Therapies May Be Needed to Treat ALS

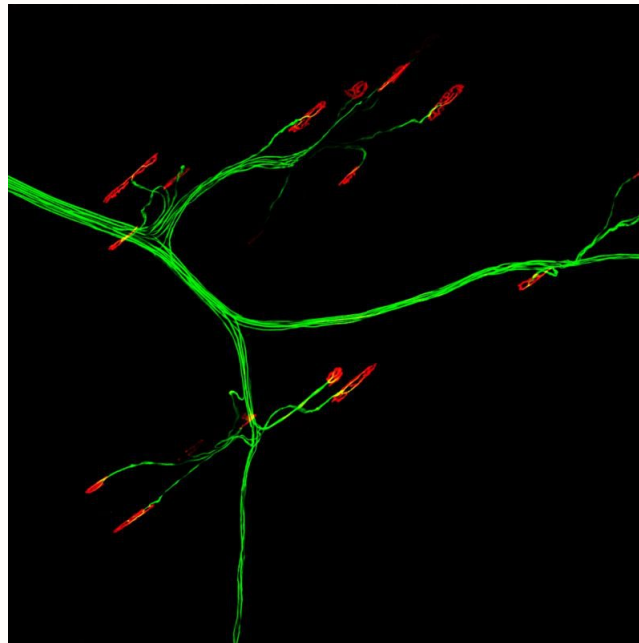
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Protecting nerve terminals may not be enough to treat ALS according to a new study. The report, led by Amy Easton at Genentech in San Francisco, California, found that treatment of ALS SOD1 G93A model mice with a muscle specific kinase (MuSK)-activating antibody preserved neuromuscular synapses – at least in the diaphragm. No improvement in respiratory function, however, could be detected. What's more, the treatment did not promote the survival of motor neurons in the disease. The findings add to growing evidence that other treatment strategies may be needed to protect motor neurons against ALS (Gould et al., 2006; Frakes et al., 2017). The study appeared on December 4 in *Neurobiology of Disease*.

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Multiple therapies required? Treatment with an antibody targeting MuSK helped stabilize neuromuscular synapses in ALS model mice but motor neurons still degenerated. [Courtesy of James Sleight, CC BY-NC 4.0].

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