

## Are Chinese scientists going rogue on latest COVID research? Experimental strain found 100% lethal in ‘humanized’ mice

In a [chilling study from Beijing](#), Chinese scientists created a mutant COVID-19 strain, GX\_P2V, with a 100% lethality rate in “humanized” mice.

Similar to GX/2017 found in Malaysian pangolins, the virus has raised serious concerns about potential human spillover risks.

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The mutated strain, GX\_P2V, exhibited an alarming speed in attacking the brains of mice engineered to reflect human genetic makeup. Within eight days, all infected mice succumbed to the virus, showcasing a surprisingly rapid death rate.

Researchers noted that GX\_P2V had penetrated various organs, including the lungs, bones, eyes, tracheas, and brains.

The severity of brain infections proved fatal, causing a distinctive set of symptoms, such as rapid weight loss, a hunched posture, sluggish movement, and eerily eyes turning completely white the day before death.

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While the study raises concerns about a potential spillover risk into the human population, it fails to provide clear insights into how the virus might affect humans.

Critics, including [Francois Balloux](#) from the University College London’s Genetics Institute, express apprehensions about the research, deeming it “terrible” and “scientifically totally pointless.”

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Importantly, the 2024 study appears unrelated to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a focal point in lab leak theories surrounding the pandemic.

[This is an excerpt. Read the full article here](#)