Nanyang Technological University develops new drug against Zika virus

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In a joint study conducted by Nanyang Technological University (NTU), the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, and Ghent University in Belgium, a new drug has been developed that can destroy the Zika virus.

Professor Cho Nam-Joon of Nanyang Technological University explained that the new drug has the characteristic that it attacks the physical structure of Zika virus. Most antiviral drugs work by preventing the replication of the virus, but if the virus is mutated, the effect of the drug may be lost. However, this drug developed destroys the virus membrane. As the pin strikes the balloon, the drug pierces the cell membrane of the virus, explaining that the cell membrane is destroyed.

Zicca virus, a virus that causes microcephaly, is said to infect a child whose head is smaller than normal when infected. In Singapore, the first infected person was found in 2016, and Aedes mosquito, a mosquito in Singapore, is known to be an infectious agent. This year, only one patient was found in Singapore.

The researchers say the new drug is likely to fight against viruses like dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. In addition, we will proceed with additional drug testing once appropriate regulation is approved.