

## Association of Plasma Inflammatory Proteins and Intracerebral Hemorrhage in Pediatric Brain Arteriovenous Malformations

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- **Abstract**

- **Introduction:** Brain arteriovenous malformations (bAVMs) are the leading cause of intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) in children. Prior studies have implicated inflammation as a major contributor to bAVM pathogenesis and rupture, with increased inflammatory cell infiltration and interleukin protein levels reported in bAVM tissue. However, few studies have evaluated circulating inflammatory proteins as potential biomarkers for ICH in children with bAVMs.
- **Hypothesis:** Plasma levels of inflammatory markers differ in pediatric patients with ruptured bAVMs compared to unruptured bAVMs.
- **Methods:** This cross-sectional study included children with bAVMs (< 19 years old at presentation) evaluated at our institution between 2005 and 2022, who were enrolled in a prospective cohort study. Plasma samples (n = 52) were collected after diagnosis but before treatment and analyzed using a commercially available, comprehensive multiplex panel of 384 inflammatory markers. To control for confounders, such as the acute

response to ICH, we performed segmented multivariable linear regression analysis, which allows initial protein levels to vary but assumes slopes to be constant within groups after a specified time point (e.g., 32 days). The model adjusted for age, sex, time to blood collection, and interaction of time with ICH status to identify plasma proteins associated with ICH. Exponentiated coefficients are presented and interpreted as proportional increases (PIs). We report nominally associated ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and significantly associated proteins based on Bonferroni adjustment ( $p = 0.05/368$  proteins = 0.00014).

- **Results:** We analyzed blood samples collected prior to treatment in 27 unruptured bAVMs (non-ICH cases) and 25 ruptured bAVMs. The median time from study enrollment to sample collection was 126 days (IQR = 64–247) for non-ICH cases and 11 days (IQR = 4–37) for ICH cases. We observed four different patterns of association of biomarker levels with ICH status:
  - 1) no differences between ICH and non-ICH groups over time ( $n=306$  markers); 2) no long-term differences between ICH and non-ICH groups but initial trajectories differ after presentation ( $n=29$ ); 3) long-term differences between ICH and non-ICH groups and initial trajectories differ after presentation ( $n=5$ ); and 4) consistent differences between ICH and non-ICH groups over time ( $n=28$ ). Thus, 33 inflammatory proteins were nominally associated ( $p < 0.05$ ) with ICH either with or without initial trajectory differences (patterns 3 or 4, PI ranging from 0.71 to 4.23). Five of these 33 proteins have been associated with bAVM development and rupture in previous studies (VEGFA, MMP-10, TNF, ANGPTL2, and CSF1). No proteins were statistically significant after adjustment for multiple testing.

- **Conclusion:** We measured a large set of inflammatory proteins in blood samples from pediatric bAVM patients and identified 33 proteins with levels nominally associated with ICH with or without initial trajectory differences, including elevated levels of VEGFA and MMP-10. Further studies are needed in larger bAVM cohorts and should include serial measurements of angiogenic or inflammatory proteins to validate the association of these potential biomarkers of ICH risk in children with bAVM.

- **Introduction**

- Brain arteriovenous malformations (bAVMs) consist of abnormal tangles of vessels with direct connections between arteries and draining veins without an intervening capillary bed. All bAVMs have characteristic properties: one or more feeding arteries, a nidus that is the site of the arteriovenous shunt and draining venous structures.
- In children, bAVMs are the leading cause of spontaneous intracranial hemorrhage (ICH) (Josephson et al., 2015). Children with a bAVM are more likely than adults (59% vs. 41%) to present with ICH despite having a similar annual rate of subsequent ICH (Choi & Mohr, 2005; Fullerton et al., 2005; Hetts et al., 2014). Pediatric bAVMs also differ from adult bAVMs with respect to the prevalence of high-risk angiographic features that are associated with ICH, e.g., exclusively deep venous drainage, a single feeding artery, smaller bAVM size, presence of venous stenosis and/or reflux, and nidal or feeding artery aneurysms (Ellis et al., 2013; Hetts et al., 2014; Oulasvirta et al., 2022). Additionally, children with bAVMs have higher recurrence rates after treatment than adults, which suggests biological differences in the dynamic nature of these lesions (Oulasvirta et al., 2022; Pezeshkpour et al., 2020).
- While we do not yet fully understand the exact mechanisms contributing to ICH risk in bAVMs, several studies have pointed to the roles of abnormal angiogenesis and inflammation (Kim et al., 2011). Increased levels of inflammatory markers, such as IL-6, are found in bAVM tissue and are reportedly higher in ruptured vs. unruptured bAVM adult cases (Chen et al., 2006; Pawlikowska et al., 2004). In addition, genetic variation in IL-1 $\beta$  is associated with increased ICH risk (Kim et al., 2009). Matrix metalloproteinases,

or MMPs, the circulating levels of which have been studied in adult patients with bAVMs, have previously been shown to be higher in patients with unruptured bAVMs compared to a control population without bAVMs; however, studies have not indicated whether MMPs are associated with ICH in bAVMs (Lattanzi et al., 2020).

- While a few studies have investigated the role of inflammatory biomarkers in bAVMs, these studies have included only small numbers of children, and none have examined the association of plasma biomarkers with the risk of bAVM rupture (Fehnel et al., 2020; Ojeda-Fernandez et al., 2010; Wetzel-Strong et al., 2021). Hence, we aimed to identify circulating plasma levels of inflammatory markers associated with ICH in children with bAVMs. Inflammatory biomarkers that stratify patients into high or low-risk categories for ICH would be valuable in informing AVM treatment strategies (Germans et al., 2022; Venugopal et al., 2022).

- **Methods**

- **Study Design**

- ***Patient Cohort***

- Patients diagnosed with a bAVM at age < 19 years were enrolled and followed prospectively at our institution between 2000 and 2022. Patients were evaluated by a multidisciplinary team that included pediatric neurosurgeons, vascular pediatric neurologists, neuro-interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, and intensive care pediatricians. Malformations consistent with bAVMs, defined as arteriovenous shunting lesions with a nidus, were identified on brain imaging and confirmed by cerebral digital

subtraction angiography. Patients were excluded from this study if they had multiple brain AVMs, spinal AVMs, dural arteriovenous fistulas, or vein of Galen malformations. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at the University of California, San Francisco. Parents of pediatric patients provided informed consent with patient assent when appropriate.

- **Study Variables**

- Demographic and clinical data included age, sex, race/ethnicity, and initial presenting symptoms. The clinical assessment of symptomatic presentation (including hemorrhage, seizure, headache, or focal neurological deficit) was based on formal consultation by a neurologist. The initial presentation in this study is defined as the clinical event that led to the patient presenting to the hospital with symptoms associated with bAVM (i.e., seizure, headache, or neurologic deficit) and subsequent imaging confirmation of the malformation. All patients were prospectively followed for ICH, new symptoms, and new treatments. ICH events were defined as fresh bleeding into parenchyma or CSF spaces by CT or MRI.
- Digital subtraction angiography (DSA) for each case was reviewed independently by neuroradiologists and angiographic variables were recorded on predefined database forms per AVM reporting guidelines (Atkinson et al., 2001). Morphologic variables included eloquence (location in eloquent or non-eloquent brain regions), venous drainage patterns (superficial, superficial and deep, or exclusively deep), presence or absence of venous stenosis and reflux, and number of feeding arteries. Associated aneurysms were defined as the presence of shunt flow-related aneurysms (e.g.,

aneurysms of arteries directly supplying the AVM or subjected to increased blood flow due to the AVM) and intranidal aneurysms. The size of bAVMs was determined by radiographically measuring the maximal nidal diameter in centimeters.

- **Blood Sample Collection**

- Blood samples from bAVM cases were collected prior to any treatment (e.g., radiosurgery, embolization, or resection), typically at the time the patient was undergoing venous access for clinical purposes. EDTA plasma was isolated within one hour of collection and banked at -80°C using a standardized protocol.

- **Plasma Protein Analysis**

- A total of 40 µL of EDTA plasma from each participant was analyzed using the OLINK® Explore 384 Inflammation panel (Supplemental Table), which contains 384 angiogenic and inflammatory proteins (OLINK, Inc., Boston, MA, USA). The panel uses a nucleic acid proximity-based assay known as the Proximity Extension Assay (<http://www.olink.com/>). Protein levels were quantified based on log-log standard curves; markers with >10% of values outside the range of detection were removed, and normalized protein expression (NPX) values, which are relative quantification values, were analyzed. We chose this OLINK panel because it includes many pro-inflammatory cytokines involved in bAVM pathogenesis.

- **Statistical Analysis**

- Biomarker levels vary with time or in response to acute ICH; therefore, we performed segmented multivariable linear regression to test for the association of inflammatory protein levels with ICH. Segmented linear regression fits a model that consists of

connected line segments (Figures 2 and 3). This method allows for biomarker levels to vary up to a certain time point (e.g., five on a log<sub>2</sub> scale or 32 days) and then assumes slopes are constant within groups after that time point to estimate the association between biomarker levels (outcome) and ICH (primary predictor). The model adjusts for age, sex, time from initial bAVM presentation to blood sample collection, and the interaction of time with ICH. No cases had an ICH event after the patient's initial presentation and before blood sample collection. When the interaction term with time was not statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ), we reran the model without the variable allowing for segmentation. Since the outcome of a given regression model was the NPX (normalized protein expression) level of the biomarker, which is an arbitrary unit on a log<sub>2</sub> scale, exponentiated coefficients are reported as proportional increases (PI). For example, a PI = 1.3 indicates a 30% higher biomarker level in the group with ICH compared to the group without ICH, and a PI = 0.7 would indicate a 30% lower level. Plasma protein levels were considered to be significantly associated with ICH after Bonferroni correction for multiple testing of 368 proteins ( $p < 0.00014$ ) and nominally associated with ICH when  $p < 0.05$ . Pairwise correlation between nominally significant ICH markers was evaluated using Pearson's correlation coefficient and displayed using the R package pheatmap (Kolde, 2018; R Core Team, 2022). All other data analysis was conducted using Stata version 18.5 (StataCorp, 2023).

- **Results**

- **Demographic and Clinical Characteristics**

- Among 242 children with a bAVM enrolled in the study, 157 contributed blood samples. Among these, 52 children had blood samples collected prior to any bAVM treatment and were included in the analysis. Demographic, clinical, and angiographic characteristics are summarized in Table 1. There were no differences in gender ( $p = 1.00$ ), race ( $p = 0.42$ ), age ( $p = 0.86$ ), or ethnicity ( $p = 0.06$ ) between cases with ICH ( $n = 25$ ) and without ICH ( $n = 27$ ) at the time of presentation. Cases without ICH initially presented with headache ( $n = 12, 44\%$ ), seizure ( $n = 10, 37\%$ ), and focal neurologic deficit ( $n = 8, 30\%$ ). No significant differences in angiographic characteristics (size, exclusively deep venous drainage, eloquence, degree of venous stenosis, number of feeding arteries, or associated aneurysms) were observed between groups, except for the reversal of venous outflow, which was more likely to be associated with non-ICH cases ( $p = 0.03$ ).
- **Blood Sample Collection**
- The median time from study enrollment to blood sample collection was longer in the non-ICH vs. ICH groups ( $p = 0.02$ ). The median time was 126 days (IQR = 64–247) for cases without ICH and 11 days (IQR = 4–37) for cases with ICH. Eight samples in ICH cases and 23 samples in non-ICH cases were collected more than 32 days after presentation.
- **Biomarker Analysis**
- Sixteen of 384 (4%) biomarkers were excluded from analyses because more than 10% of NPX values were outside the range of detection.

- We identified four distinct patterns of inflammatory biomarkers in ICH cases and non-ICH cases. The first pattern was reflected in most plasma proteins ( $n = 306$ , 83.2%), which showed no difference in levels between ICH and non-ICH groups over time. For example, circulating levels of IL-1 $\beta$  were similar between ICH and non-ICH cases (PI = 0.90, 95% CI = 0.65-1.26,  $p = 0.54$ ), as shown in Figure 1.
- The second pattern, reflected in 29 (7.9%) plasma proteins, showed no long-term differences between ICH and non-ICH groups but initial trajectories differed after presentation. In other words, there was a transient elevation or depression of levels after ICH within one month of presentation but no difference between ICH and non-ICH samples collected more than one month after presentation. This was the case for IL-6 (Figure 2), where we observed an initial increase in IL-6 protein levels in ICH cases compared to non-ICH cases but no difference in IL-6 levels between groups after one month (PI = 0.91, 95% CI = 0.32-2.55,  $p = 0.85$ ).
- For 33 of the inflammatory proteins, there was a nominally significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the marker levels between ICH and non-ICH cases (PI ranging from 0.71 to 4.23, Tables 2 and 3). For five of these proteins, a third pattern emerged in which there were long-term differences in marker levels between ICH and non-ICH groups and the initial trajectories differed after presentation (Figure 3). These five biomarkers are summarized in Table 2 and include ERBB3, TNFRSF4, LTA, TNFSF10, and LAMA4. For example, Figure 3 shows that ERBB3 levels decreased over time in non-ICH cases, whereas they transiently increased in ICH cases and then decreased but remained higher compared to non-ICH cases after one month. The fourth pattern identified 28 proteins with consistently

different levels between ICH and non-ICH groups over time, as shown for LGALS9 (Figure 4, Table 3). None of the 33 biomarkers were significant after Bonferroni correction for multiple testing of 368 total proteins. The majority of these nominally associated ICH markers were positively correlated with each other (Supplemental Figure); however, most were not strongly correlated (only one pair had a correlation  $> 0.8$ ).

- **Discussion**

- This study aimed to identify circulating inflammatory proteins that may be associated with ICH in children with bAVMs. We observed four different patterns of association of biomarker levels with ICH status: 1) no differences between ICH and non-ICH groups over time (n=306 markers); 2) no long-term differences between ICH and non-ICH groups but initial trajectories differ after presentation (n=29); 3) long-term differences between ICH and non-ICH groups and initial trajectories differ after presentation (n=5); and 4) consistent differences between ICH and non-ICH groups over time (n=28). Biomarkers observed in the first pattern are unlikely to be associated with ICH, as there were no differences in biomarker levels between ICH and non-ICH cases across the measured time period. Previous studies have shown that inflammatory markers associated with acute hemorrhage may show a pattern in which there is an initial elevation of the inflammatory marker level at the time of ICH or within one week of an acute ICH event, which was consistent with the second pattern of inflammatory biomarkers identified in this study (Dagonnier et al., 2021; Saand et al., 2019). However, few bAVM studies have found elevated protein levels associated with ICH that are sustained for longer than one month after the ICH event, as was shown in the third and

fourth patterns of inflammatory biomarkers identified in this study. Past studies have often evaluated plasma samples collected within one week of the acute ICH, but these reports have not included an evaluation of protein levels at post-ICH time points (e.g., one week post-ICH), nor a focus on cases in which bAVMs are present (Dagonnier et al., 2021; Saand et al., 2019). Thus, the results of this study further highlight how biomarker levels can be affected by the time since ICH and how temporal evaluations of such biomarkers beyond a month from ICH could help elucidate if these biomarkers play a role beyond the acute inflammatory responses secondary to hemorrhagic events.

- Our study identified 33 plasma proteins associated with ICH, either with or without differences in initial trajectories after presentation (patterns 3 and 4); however, these associations were not significant after correction for multiple testing. Five biomarkers' patterns were consistent with the third pattern, in which there were long-term differences in marker levels between ICH and non-ICH groups, but the initial trajectory differed after presentation, perhaps reflecting an acute or secondary inflammatory response after ICH. Three of these biomarkers, TNFRSF4, LTA, and TNFSF10, have been associated with the development of intracranial aneurysms and neuroinflammation but have not been studied in bAVMs. The expression of TNFRSF4, which is thought to regulate inflammatory responses through nuclear factor kappa-beta (NFkB) pathways, was elevated in our sample and has been found to be significantly higher in intraluminal blood samples of unruptured intracranial aneurysms than in samples from control patients without aneurysms (Tutino et al., 2021). Upregulation in gene expression levels of the LTA and TNFSF10 biomarkers has also been associated with neuroinflammation

through the NFκB and HMGB1 pathways, respectively, but have similarly not been investigated in studies specific to bAVM development or rupture (Cucos et al., 2022; Durocher et al., 2020).

- Among the other 28 nominally significant proteins with consistent differences over time and no interaction (pattern 4), VEGFA, TNF, MMP-10, ANGPTL2, and CSF1 have been previously associated with bAVM angiogenesis and rupture. These markers may be good predictors of ICH since they were consistently increased or decreased in ICH vs. non-ICH groups. Both VEGFA and TNF were elevated in patients presenting with ICH in our sample and have previously been associated with bAVM angiogenesis, ischemic stroke, and ICH secondary to bAVM rupture (Babkina et al., 2022; Germans et al., 2022; Gong et al., 2011; Li et al., 2013). In a prior study, MMP-10 was higher in patients with unruptured bAVMs compared to a control population without bAVMs but not elevated in ICH cases secondary to bAVM rupture (Liu et al., 2022). Inflammatory markers ANGPTL2 and CSF1 may be increased in patients presenting with bAVMs because these markers are rapidly released by endothelial cells and are associated with destabilizing vascular smooth muscle cell-endothelial cell interactions during inflammatory events. However, ANGPTL2 levels have previously been shown to be reduced in patients with hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT) compared to control subjects without HHT, but those studies did not indicate how many of the HHT patients included had bAVMs (Ma et al., 2023; Snodgrass et al., 2021).
- While other biomarkers that were elevated in patients presenting with ICH have not been studied regarding AVM pathogenesis and rupture, they have been shown to be

associated with hemorrhage and ischemia secondary to neurologic events. One protein that was elevated in the samples from patients with ICH was ERBB3 ( $p = 0.001$ ). ERBB1 and ERBB2 have been shown to be neuroprotective in secondary brain injury after ICH and aneurysm rupture, respectively; however, the association with ERBB3 has not been reported (Li et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2022). Levels of IFNG and GZMB are acutely increased after hemorrhagic strokes, as observed in our study, but in previous studies, this increase was usually limited to 24-96 hours after the hemorrhagic event (Germans et al., 2022; Saand et al., 2019; Stone et al., 2016; Vahidy et al., 2015). Elevation of three biomarkers, CXCL10, ANGPTL2, and IL-10 (collected between six- and 72 hours after hemorrhagic strokes), has been associated with long-term cognitive dysfunction and may be associated with ongoing brain injury, but prolonged elevation in the biomarker levels has also not been measured (Amadatsu et al., 2016; Garcia et al., 2017; Landreneau et al., 2018). Other biomarkers, including LGALS9, NCR1, and CKAP4, are often found to be elevated after ischemic strokes but have not been previously studied in hemorrhagic strokes or bAVM rupture (Braadt et al., 2023; Han et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2023). Furthermore, the inflammatory markers for ICH that were observed to be correlated (Pearson correlation coefficient  $> 0.5$ ) in this bAVM cohort have not previously been studied in relation to each other. Further studies will be needed to evaluate whether coordinated levels of these proteins contribute to the pathogenesis of bAVMs, risk of bAVM ICH, or response to ICH.

- Biomarkers such as GFAP, RBP-4, and S100B have previously been elevated in acute hemorrhagic stroke events and have been shown to be useful as diagnostic markers to

differentiate ischemic stroke and ICH if measured within the first few hours of stroke events (Delgado et al., 2006; Katsanos et al., 2017; Llombart et al., 2016). However, these biomarkers were not included in the inflammatory panel used in this study, and thus, their association with bAVM rupture and subsequent ICH could not be determined.

- While previous studies indicated an association between interleukins and bAVM pathogenesis and ICH, in this study, we found no significant difference in plasma levels of IL-1 $\beta$  or IL-6 in bAVM cases that present with or without ICH. IL-1 $\beta$  promoter polymorphisms, which have been associated with the risk of ICH during follow-up in other studies, may not necessarily be concordant with plasma levels of IL-1 $\beta$ , which have not been shown to be increased in patients with either ruptured or unruptured bAVMs when compared to patients diagnosed with unruptured intracranial aneurysms (Kim et al., 2009; Liu et al., 2022). Although previous studies have shown increased levels of IL-6 protein in both bAVM tissue and plasma from ruptured compared to unruptured bAVM cases, we only observed an elevation in IL-6 levels in plasma samples collected within one month of presentation in ICH cases (Chen et al., 2006; Li et al., 2013). The initial increase in IL-6 levels may be explained by the inflammatory response to an acute hemorrhage, as a transient elevation in plasma markers is associated with the inflammatory cytokine acute phase response (Chen et al., 2006; Powers et al., 2003). Our results in pediatric cases align with those of Liu et al. (2022), who found no significant difference in plasma IL-6 levels in adult bAVM patients who present with ICH when measuring these levels at least 30 days after ICH. Li et al. (2013) found an increase in plasma IL-6 levels in ICH cases; however, plasma samples in that study were collected

at the time of surgical intervention to treat acute hemorrhage, and repeat samples were not collected after the intervention to evaluate how IL-6 levels may change over time.

- **Strengths and Limitations**

- Strengths of this study include the large sample size of pediatric bAVM cases with blood samples, the use of a comprehensive commercially available biomarker panel, and a careful selection of samples that were collected before bAVM treatment and over a range of time points that did not limit the analysis of biomarker levels to a week after the hemorrhage event. Limitations include the cross-sectional nature of the study. Thus, it could not be determined whether the associated plasma biomarker levels were elevated prior to bAVM rupture and could serve as predictors of ICH since all samples in the ICH group were collected after rupture. Another limitation is that our analysis assumed slopes were constant within groups after the specified time point of 32 days, which may not necessarily reflect the physiological responses to ICH events. Our sample size limited the ability to control for additional angiographic characteristics, such as venous outflow reversal and flow-related arterial aneurysms, that may confound the relationship between inflammatory levels and risk of ICH. We are also not able to comment on other important inflammatory or angiogenic markers that were not on the commercial array used.

- **Future Directions**

- To accurately stratify patients for treatment and reduce ICH risk, prospective studies in which repeat blood samples are collected from bAVM patients before and after ICH may help elucidate which biomarkers predict ICH risk. Conducting studies in which blood

samples are collected at time points beyond one month after presentation would also help elucidate the association between inflammatory markers and hemorrhage in bAVM patients and how these levels may vary temporally with respect to acute and long-term inflammatory effects.

- **Conclusions**

- In this pediatric bAVM cohort, we identified 33 inflammatory biomarkers that could be further explored as markers of ICH due to the difference in biomarker levels with respect to the timing of sampling. A better understanding of the role of inflammatory markers in bAVMs could help stratify ICH risk and inform tailored management and treatment strategies.

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- Tables
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- Table 1
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- *Clinical and imaging characteristics of 52 brain arteriovenous malformation (bAVM) patients with (+) and without (-) intracranial hemorrhage (ICH) at presentation.*
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Characteristic	bAVM – ICH (n=27)	bAVM + ICH (n=25)	Total (n = 52)
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	11 (40.7%)	10 (40.0%)	21 (40.4%)
Female	16 (59.3%)	15 (60.0%)	31 (59.6%)
<b>Age at diagnosis, years*</b>	13.2 ± 4.8	13.4 ± 3.5	13.3 ± 4.2
<b>Race</b>			
Asian	2 (7.4%)	4 (16.0%)	6 (11.5%)
Black	1 (3.7%)	3 (12.0%)	4 (7.7%)
More than one race	7 (25.9%)	6 (24.0%)	13 (25.0%)
White	17 (63.0%)	11 (44.0%)	28 (53.8%)
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic	16 (59.3%)	8 (32.0%)	24 (46.2%)
Not Hispanic	11 (40.7%)	17 (68.0%)	28 (53.8%)
<b>Presentation with Seizure</b>	10 (37.0%)	2 (8.0%)	12 (23.1%)
<b>Presentation with Neurological Deficit</b>	8 (29.6%)	11 (44.0%)	19 (36.5%)
<b>Presentation with Headache</b>	12 (44.4%)	19 (76.0%)	31 (59.6%)
<b>bAVM size, cm*</b>	3.14 (1.14)	2.71 (1.44)	2.94 (1.30)

<b>Deep Venous Drainage</b>			
Superficial	14 (51.9%)	6 (25.0%)	20 (39.2%)
Exclusively deep	2 (7.4%)	7 (29.2%)	9 (17.7%)
Both superficial and deep	11 (40.8%)	11 (45.8%)	22 (43.1%)
<b>Eloquence</b>			
Yes	13 (48.1%)	8 (36.4%)	21 (42.9%)
No	14 (51.9%)	14 (63.6%)	28 (57.1%)
<b>Reversal of venous outflow</b>			
Yes	9 (33.3%)	1 (4.0%)	10 (19.2%)
No	15 (55.6%)	18 (72.0%)	33 (63.5%)
<b>Venous stenosis</b>			
0-24%	12 (52.2%)	10 (55.6%)	22 (53.7%)
25-49%	3 (13.0%)	4 (22.2%)	7 (17.1%)
50-74%	6 (26.1%)	2 (11.1%)	8 (19.5%)
75-99%	1 (4.4%)	2 (11.1%)	3 (7.3%)
Occluded	1 (4.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (2.4%)
<b>Number of feeding arteries</b>			
One	13 (54.2%)	8 (44.4%)	21 (50.0%)
Two or more	11 (45.8%)	10 (55.6%)	21 (50.0%)
<b>Associated aneurysms</b>			
Yes	3 (12.0%)	7 (33.3%)	10 (21.7%)
No	22 (88.0%)	14 (66.7%)	36 (78.3%)

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- \*mean +/- standard deviation
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- **Table 2**

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- *Inflammatory markers with long-term differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) in levels between brain arteriovenous malformation (bAVM) intracranial hemorrhage (ICH) and non-ICH cases and with initial trajectory differences in biomarker levels measured within the first month after presentation).*

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<b>Inflammatory Marker Symbol</b>	<b>Marker Name</b>	<b>Proportional Increase*</b>	<b>95% CI</b>	<b>P-value</b>
<b>ERBB3</b>	Receptor tyrosine-protein kinase erbB-3	1.23	[1.10, 1.38]	0.001
<b>TNFRSF4</b>	Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 4	1.60	[1.16, 2.20]	0.005
<b>LTA</b>	Lymphotoxin alpha	1.65	[1.13, 2.40]	0.011
<b>TNFSF10</b>	Tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 10	1.37	[1.05, 1.79]	0.022
<b>LAMA4</b>	Laminin subunit alpha-4	1.41	[1.00, 1.99]	0.048

- \*Proportional Increase (PI) = exponentiated beta coefficient from multivariable linear regression model with segmentation.

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- **Table 3**

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- *Inflammatory markers with consistent differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) in levels between brain arteriovenous malformation (bAVM) intracranial hemorrhage (ICH) and non-ICH cases over time.*
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Inflammatory Marker Symbol	Marker Name	Proportional Increase*	95% CI	P-value
LGALS9	Galectin-9	1.57	[1.17, 2.10]	0.004
IFNG	Interferon-gamma	3.00	[1.42, 6.35]	0.005
AGRN	Agrin	1.44	[1.11, 1.85]	0.006
NCR1	Natural cytotoxicity triggering receptor 1	1.46	[1.12, 1.91]	0.007
CXCL10	C-X-C motif chemokine 10	1.99	[1.22, 3.23]	0.007
IL10RB	Interleukin-10 receptor subunit beta	1.28	[1.07, 1.53]	0.008
ITM2A	Integral membrane protein 2A	1.43	[1.10, 1.87]	0.009
GZMB	Granzyme B	2.47	[1.24, 4.90]	0.011
CKAP4	Cytoskeleton-associated protein 4	1.25	[1.05, 1.48]	0.011
VEGFA	Vascular endothelial growth factor A	1.43	[1.08, 1.88]	0.012
CLEC4A	C-type lectin domain family 4 member A	0.76	[0.62, 0.94]	0.013
ANGPTL2	Angiopoietin-related protein 2	1.49	[1.09, 2.04]	0.015
MMP10	Stromelysin-2	1.80	[1.13, 2.88]	0.015
PSIP1	PC4 and SFRS1-interacting protein	2.27	[1.18, 4.38]	0.015
CSF1	Macrophage colony-stimulating factor 1	1.34	[1.06, 1.70]	0.015
B4GALT1	Beta-1,4-galactosyltransferase 1	1.24	[1.04, 1.47]	0.018

<b>MICA/B</b>	MHC class I polypeptide-related sequences A/B	4.23	[1.29, 13.91]	0.019
<b>SIGLEC1</b>	Sialic acid-binding Ig-like lectin 10	1.49	[1.07, 2.07]	0.019
<b>GZMA</b>	Granzyme A	1.69	[1.09, 2.63]	0.021
<b>LTBR</b>	Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 3	1.30	[1.04, 1.61]	0.021
<b>CRLF1</b>	Cytokine receptor-like factor 1	1.21	[1.03, 1.42]	0.021
<b>FLT3LG</b>	Fms-related tyrosine kinase 3 ligand	1.44	[1.04, 2.01]	0.029
<b>LAIR1</b>	Leukocyte-associated immunoglobulin-like receptor 1	1.30	[1.03, 1.66]	0.031
<b>CNTNAP2</b>	Contactin-associated protein-like 2	0.71	[0.53, 0.97]	0.034
<b>COL9A1</b>	Collagen alpha-1(IX) chain	2.26	[1.06, 4.84]	0.036
<b>TNFRSF11B</b>	Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 11B	1.27	[1.01, 1.59]	0.038
<b>AGRP</b>	Agouti-related protein	1.42	[1.02, 1.98]	0.039
<b>TNF</b>	Tumor necrosis factor	1.40	[1.01, 1.93]	0.041

- \*Proportional Increase (PI) = exponentiated coefficient from multivariable linear regression without segmentation.

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- **SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE: OLINK® Explore 384 Inflammation panel.**
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Alpha-actinin-4	ACTN4
Ameloblastin	AMBN
Protein amnionless	AMN
Amiloride-sensitive amine oxidase [copper-containing]	AOC1
Aryl hydrocarbon receptor nuclear translocator	ARNT
Artemin	ARTN
Bcl-2-like protein 11, Isoform BimL	BCL2L11
BH3-interacting domain death agonist	BID
Centrosomal protein of 164 kDa	CEP164
Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor	CSF3
C-X-C motif chemokine 14	CXCL14
Stromal cell-derived factor 1	CXCL12
Diacylglycerol kinase zeta	DGKZ
Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 5A-1	EIF5A
Protein enabled homolog	ENAH
Fatty acid-binding protein 9	FABP9
Fc receptor-like protein 3	FCRL3
Fibroblast growth factor 5	FGF5
FXRD domain-containing ion transport regulator 5	FXRD5
Polypeptide N-acetylgalactosaminyltransferase 3	GALNT3
Guanylate-binding protein 2	GBP2
Islet cell autoantigen 1	ICA1
Interferon gamma	IFNG
Interleukin-10	IL10
Interleukin-10 receptor subunit alpha	IL10RA
Interleukin-11	IL11
Interleukin-12 receptor subunit beta-1	IL12RB1
Interleukin-13	IL13
Interleukin-15 receptor subunit alpha	IL15RA
Interleukin-17A	IL17A
Interleukin-17C	IL17C
Interleukin-17D	IL17D
Interleukin-17F	IL17F
Interleukin-1 alpha	IL1A

Interleukin-1 beta	IL1B
Interleukin-1 receptor-like 2	IL1RL2
Interleukin-2	IL2
Interleukin-20	IL20
Interleukin-20 receptor subunit alpha	IL20RA
Interleukin-22 receptor subunit alpha-1	IL22RA1
Interleukin-24	IL24
Interleukin-2 receptor subunit beta	IL2RB
Interleukin-33	IL33
Interleukin-3 receptor subunit alpha	IL3RA
Interleukin-4	IL4
Interleukin-5	IL5
Interleukin-1 receptor-associated kinase 1	IRAK1
Integrin beta-6	ITGB6
Immunoglobulin J chain	JCHAIN
Transcription factor Jun	JUN
Cytosol aminopeptidase	LAP3
Leukocyte immunoglobulin-like receptor subfamily B member 4	LILRB4
Leucine-rich repeat neuronal protein 1	LRRN1
Protein LTO1 homolog	LTO1
Lymphotoxin-alpha	LTA
Allergin-1	MILR1
Mevalonate kinase	MVK
Unconventional myosin-IXb	MYO9B
Nibrin	NBN
Nicalin	NCLN
Nuclear factor of activated T-cells, cytoplasmic 3	NFATC3
Neurturin	NRTN
Protein-arginine deiminase type-2	PADI2
Pappalysin-1	PAPPA
Poly [ADP-ribose] polymerase 1	PARP1
Protocadherin-1	PCDH1
Polyribonucleotide nucleotidyltransferase 1, mitochondrial	PNPT1
Thioredoxin-dependent peroxide reductase, mitochondrial	PRDX3
Prolactin regulatory element-binding protein	PREB
5'-AMP-activated protein kinase subunit beta-1	PRKAB1
Protein kinase C theta type	PRKCQ
Receptor-type tyrosine-protein phosphatase mu	PTPRM
Ras-related protein Rab-6A	RAB6A

Ras-related protein Rab-37	RAB37
Rab GTPase-activating protein 1-like	RABGAP1L
Regulator of G-protein signaling 8	RGS8
Secretagogin	SCGN
Signaling threshold-regulating transmembrane adapter 1	SIT1
Signaling lymphocytic activation molecule	SLAMF1
Protein sprouty homolog 2	SPRY2
TRAF family member-associated NF-kappa-B activator	TANK
TBC1 domain family member 5	TBC1D5
Tumor necrosis factor alpha-induced protein 8	TNFAIP8
Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 13C	TNFRSF13C
Translationally-controlled tumor protein	TPT1
Actin nucleation-promoting factor WAS	WAS
Protein Wnt-9a	WNT9A
YTH domain-containing family protein 3	YTHDF3
Adenosine deaminase	ADA
Disintegrin and metalloproteinase domain-containing protein 23	ADAM23
Agouti-related protein	AGRP
Aldehyde dehydrogenase, dimeric NADP-preferring	ALDH3A1
Annexin A11	ANXA11
Rho guanine nucleotide exchange factor 12	ARHGEF12
Axin-1	AXIN1
Transcription regulator protein BACH1	BACH1
B-cell scaffold protein with ankyrin repeats	BANK1
Breakpoint cluster region protein	BCR
Basigin	BSG
Butyrophilin subfamily 3 member A2	BTN3A2
Complement C1q subcomponent subunit A	C1QA
Caspase-2	CASP2
Eotaxin	CCL11
C-C motif chemokine 20	CCL20
C-C motif chemokine 25	CCL25
C-C motif chemokine 26	CCL26
C-C motif chemokine 28	CCL28
C-C motif chemokine 3	CCL3
C-C motif chemokine 7	CCL7
CD160 antigen	CD160
OX-2 membrane glycoprotein	CD200
Cell surface glycoprotein CD200 receptor 1	CD200R1
B-cell receptor CD22	CD22
Natural killer cell receptor 2B4	CD244

T-cell surface glycoprotein CD4	CD4
CD40 ligand	CD40LG
T-cell differentiation antigen CD6	CD6
CD70 antigen	CD70
B-cell antigen receptor complex-associated protein beta chain	CD79B
CD83 antigen	CD83
SLAM family member 5	CD84
Corneodesmosin	CDSN
Carcinoembryonic antigen-related cell adhesion molecule 21	CEACAM21
Cytoskeleton-associated protein 4	CKAP4
C-type lectin domain family 4 member A	CLEC4A
C-type lectin domain family 4 member C	CLEC4C
C-type lectin domain family 4 member D	CLEC4D
C-type lectin domain family 4 member G	CLEC4G
C-type lectin domain family 7 member A	CLEC7A
CAP-Gly domain-containing linker protein 2	CLIP2
Calsyntenin-2	CLSTN2
Contactin-associated protein-like 2	CNTNAP2
Collagen alpha-1(IX) chain	COL9A1
Cathepsin O	CTSO
Coxsackievirus and adenovirus receptor	CXADR
C-X-C motif chemokine 17	CXCL17
Dual adapter for phosphotyrosine and 3-phosphotyrosine and 3-phosphoinosit	DAPP1
2,4-dienoyl-CoA reductase [(3E)-enoyl-CoA-producing], mitochondrial	DECR1
DNA fragmentation factor subunit alpha	DFFA
DnaJ homolog subfamily A member 2	DNAJA2
Inactive dipeptidyl peptidase 10	DPP10
Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member EDAR	EDAR
Egl nine homolog 1	EGLN1
Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4 gamma 1	EIF4G1
Erythropoietin	EPO
Tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 6	FASLG
Immunoglobulin alpha Fc receptor	FCAR
Fc receptor-like protein 2	FCRL2
Fc receptor-like protein 6	FCRL6
Fibroblast growth factor 2	FGF2
Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase FKBP1B	FKBP1B
Fms-related tyrosine kinase 3 ligand	FLT3LG
Forkhead box protein O1	FOXO1
GMP reductase 1	GMPR

Golgi-associated PDZ and coiled-coil motif-containing protein	GOPC
Granzyme A	GZMA
Granzyme B	GZMB
Hematopoietic lineage cell-specific protein	HCLS1
Protein HEXIM1	HEXIM1
Hepatocyte growth factor	HGF
HLA class II histocompatibility antigen, DR alpha chain	HLA-DRA
HLA class I histocompatibility antigen, alpha chain E	HLA-E
Hippocalcin-like protein 1	HPCAL1
11-beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase 1	HSD11B1
Intercellular adhesion molecule 4	ICAM4
Iduronate 2-sulfatase	IDS
Interferon lambda receptor 1	IFNLR1
NF-kappa-B essential modulator	IKBKG
Interleukin-12 subunit beta	IL12B
Interleukin-15	IL15
Pro-interleukin-16	IL16
Interleukin-17 receptor B	IL17RB
Interleukin-18 receptor 1	IL18R1
Interleukin-32	IL32
Interleukin-4 receptor subunit alpha	IL4R
Interleukin-5 receptor subunit alpha	IL5RA
Interleukin-6	IL6
Interleukin-7	IL7
Interleukin-1 receptor-associated kinase 4	IRAK4
Isthmin-1	ISM1
Integrin alpha-11	ITGA11
Integrin alpha-6	ITGA6
Integral membrane protein 2A	ITM2A
Killer cell lectin-like receptor subfamily B member 1	KLRB1
Natural killer cells antigen CD94	KLRD1
Keratin, type I cytoskeletal 19	KRT19
Kynureninase	KYNU
Lysosome-associated membrane glycoprotein 3	LAMP3
Linker for activation of T-cells family member 1	LAT
Leukemia inhibitory factor receptor	LIFR
Lymphocyte-specific protein 1	LSP1
Lymphocyte antigen 75	LY75
T-lymphocyte surface antigen Ly-9	LY9
Dual specificity mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 6	MAP2K6

Mitogen-activated protein kinase 9	MAPK9
Methionine aminopeptidase 1D, mitochondrial	METAP1D
Methylated-DNA–protein-cysteine methyltransferase	MGMT
MHC class I polypeptide-related sequence A_MHC class I polypeptide-related s	MICA/B
Promotilin	MLN
Neutrophil cytosol factor 2	NCF2
Natural cytotoxicity triggering receptor 1	NCR1
Neurofascin	NFASC
Nuclear factor of activated T-cells, cytoplasmic 1	NFATC1
C-type natriuretic peptide	NPPC
Cytosolic 5'-nucleotidase 3A	NT5C3A
Neurotrophin-3	NTF3
NEDD8 ultimate buster 1	NUB1
Nuclear migration protein nudC	NUDC
Oncostatin-M	OSM
Placenta growth factor	PGF
Phosphoinositide 3-kinase adapter protein 1	PIK3AP1
Plexin-A4	PLXNA4
Neurabin-2	PPP1R9B
Peroxiredoxin-5, mitochondrial	PRDX5
Prokineticin-1	PROK1
PC4 and SFRS1-interacting protein	PSIP1
Proteasome assembly chaperone 3	PSMG3
Persephin	PSPN
Parathyroid hormone/parathyroid hormone-related peptide receptor	PTH1R
Sterile alpha motif domain-containing protein 9-like	SAMD9L
Secernin-1	SCRN1
P-selectin glycoprotein ligand 1	SELPLG
Serpin B8	SERPINB8
SH2 domain-containing protein 1A	SH2D1A
Sialic acid-binding Ig-like lectin 10	SIGLEC10
SLAM family member 7	SLAMF7
Zinc transporter ZIP5	SLC39A5
Serine protease inhibitor Kazal-type 4	SPINK4
SRSF protein kinase 2	SRPK2
Syntaxin-8	STX8
Sulfotransferase 2A1	SULT2A1
Protransforming growth factor alpha	TGFA
Transforming growth factor beta-1 proprotein	TGFB1

Toll-like receptor 3	TLR3
Tumor necrosis factor	TNF
Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 11A	TNFRSF11A
Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 4	TNFRSF4
Tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 10	TNFSF10
Tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 11	TNFSF11
Tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 12	TNFSF12
Tryptase alpha/beta-1	TPSAB1
TNF receptor-associated factor 2	TRAF2
E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase TRIM21	TRIM21
Tripartite motif-containing protein 5	TRIM5
Tubuliny-Tyr carboxypeptidase 1	VASH1
Vascular endothelial growth factor A	VEGFA
Vascular endothelial growth factor D	VEGFD
Adhesion G protein-coupled receptor E2	ADGRE2
Advanced glycosylation end product-specific receptor	AGER
Agrin	AGRN
Angiopoietin-1	ANGPT1
Angiopoietin-related protein 2	ANGPTL2
Angiopoietin-related protein 4	ANGPTL4
ATPase inhibitor, mitochondrial	ATP5IF1
Beta-1,4-galactosyltransferase 1	B4GALT1
Butyrophilin subfamily 2 member A1	BTN2A1
C-C motif chemokine 13	CCL13
C-C motif chemokine 17	CCL17
C-C motif chemokine 21	CCL21
C-C motif chemokine 22	CCL22
C-C motif chemokine 23	CCL23
C-C motif chemokine 24	CCL24
C-C motif chemokine 4	CCL4
CCN family member 2	CCN2
CD276 antigen	CD276
Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 5	CD40
CD48 antigen	CD48
Lymphocyte function-associated antigen 3	CD58
Cell adhesion molecule-related/down-regulated by oncogenes	CDON
Chordin-like protein 1	CHRD1
Creatine kinase U-type, mitochondrial	CKMT1A_CKMT1
Collectin-12	COLEC12

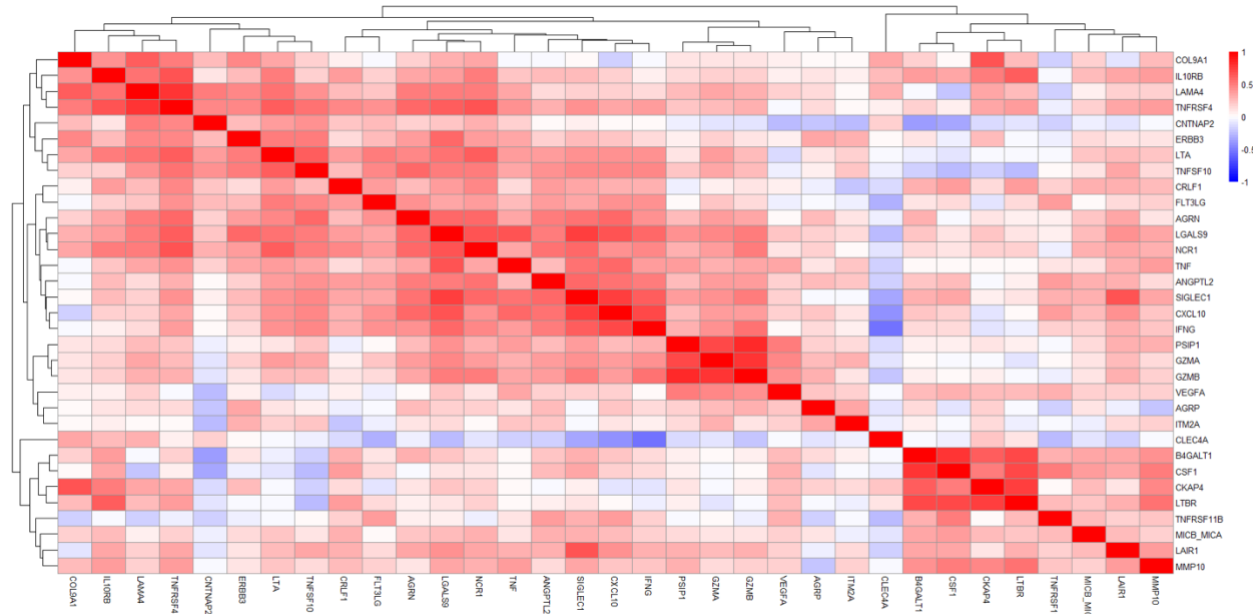
Protein disulfide isomerase CRELD2	CRELD2
Corticotropin-releasing factor-binding protein	CRHBP
Cysteine-rich motor neuron 1 protein	CRIM1
Crk-like protein	CRKL
Cytokine receptor-like factor 1	CRLF1
Macrophage colony-stimulating factor 1	CSF1
Cystatin-F	CST7
Chymotrypsin-C	CTRC
Dipeptidyl peptidase 1	CTSC
Growth-regulated alpha protein	CXCL1
C-X-C motif chemokine 10	CXCL10
C-X-C motif chemokine 6	CXCL6
Interleukin-8	CXCL8
C-X-C motif chemokine 9	CXCL9
Dystroglycan 1	DAG1
Drebrin-like protein	DBNL
Delta and Notch-like epidermal growth factor-related receptor	DNER
2'-deoxynucleoside 5'-phosphate N-hydrolase 1	DNPH1
Pro-epidermal growth factor	EGF
Ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase family member 5	ENPP5
Ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase family member 7	ENPP7
Epithelial cell adhesion molecule	EPCAM
Ephrin type-A receptor 1	EPHA1
Receptor tyrosine-protein kinase erbB-3	ERBB3
Endothelial cell-specific molecule 1	ESM1
Proteinase-activated receptor 1	F2R
Fatty acid-binding protein, liver	FABP1
Fibroblast growth factor 19	FGF19
Mitochondrial fission 1 protein	FIS1
Follistatin	FST
Follistatin-related protein 3	FSTL3
Galanin peptides	GAL
Glyoxalase domain-containing protein 4	GLOD4
Heat shock 70 kDa protein 1A	HSPA1A
Interferon gamma receptor 1	IFNGR1
Interleukin-10 receptor subunit beta	IL10RB
Interleukin-18	IL18
Interleukin-1 receptor type 2	IL1R2
Interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein	IL1RN

Leukocyte-associated immunoglobulin-like receptor 1	LAIR1
Laminin subunit alpha-4	LAMA4
Galectin-4	LGALS4
Galectin-9	LGALS9
Legumain	LGMN
Phospholysine phosphohistidine inorganic pyrophosphate phosphatase	LHPP
Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 3	LTBR
Lymphocyte antigen 6D	LY6D
Mesencephalic astrocyte-derived neurotrophic factor	MANF
Matrilin-2	MATN2
Multiple epidermal growth factor-like domains protein 10	MEGF10
Matrix extracellular phosphoglycoprotein	MEPE
Tyrosine-protein kinase Mer	MERTK
Monoglyceride lipase	MGLL
Interstitial collagenase	MMP1
Stromelysin-2	MMP10
Megakaryocyte and platelet inhibitory receptor G6b	MPIG6B
Marginal zone B- and B1-cell-specific protein	MZB1
Cytoplasmic protein NCK2	NCK2
Protein kinase C-binding protein NELL2	NELL2
Nucleoside diphosphate kinase 3	NME3
Osteomodulin	OMD
Osteoclast-associated immunoglobulin-like receptor	OSCAR
Platelet-derived growth factor subunit B	PDGFB
PDZ and LIM domain protein 7	PDLIM7
Pyruvate kinase PKLR	PKLR
Cytosolic phospholipase A2	PLA2G4A
Urokinase plasminogen activator surface receptor	PLAUR
Pancreatic lipase-related protein 2	PNLIPRP2
Serum paraoxonase/lactonase 3	PON3
Prolargin	PRELP
Prostasin	PRSS8
Tyrosine-protein phosphatase non-receptor type 6	PTPN6
Pentraxin-related protein PTX3	PTX3
Regenerating islet-derived protein 4	REG4
Roundabout homolog 1	ROBO1
Secretogranin-3	SCG3

Uteroglobin	SCGB1A1
Secretoglobin family 3A member 2	SCGB3A2
Serine hydroxymethyltransferase, cytosolic	SHMT1
Sialoadhesin	SIGLEC1
Signal-regulatory protein beta-1	SIRPB1
Src kinase-associated phosphoprotein 2	SKAP2
SPARC-related modular calcium-binding protein 2	SMOC2
Acid sphingomyelinase-like phosphodiesterase 3a	SMPDL3A
Kunitz-type protease inhibitor 2	SPINT2
Spondin-1	SPON1
Metalloproteinase inhibitor 3	TIMP3
Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 11B	TNFRSF11B
Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 13B	TNFRSF13B
Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 14	TNFRSF14
Tumor necrosis factor ligand superfamily member 13	TNFSF13
Tripeptidyl-peptidase 1	TPP1
Triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells 2	TREM2
WAP, Kazal, immunoglobulin, Kunitz and NTR domain-containing protein 2	WFIKKN2
C-X-C motif chemokine 3	CXCL3
Trefoil factor 2	TFF2

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- **SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE**
- ***Correlation plot (heatmap) displaying Pearson's correlation coefficient of the 33 nominally significant ICH markers. Two distinct clusters of correlated proteins were observed in this bAVM cohort: Cluster 1 (upper left box) including COL9A1, IL10RB, LAMA4, and TNFRSF4; and Cluster 2 (lower right box) including: B4GALT1, CSF1, CKAP4, LTBR, TNFRSF11B, MICB\_MICA, LAIR1, and MMP10.***
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# pediatric stroke



Plasma Proteins and bAVM Hemorrhage

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