

Scientists use food dye found in Doritos to make see-through mice

Food dye transformed the skin of mice into a living window revealing blood vessels, muscle fibers and gut contractions, according to a new study.

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By [Carolyn Y. Johnson](#)

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Scientists have discovered a surprisingly simple way to potentially peer inside the body, using a common yellow food dye found in [Doritos](#) to create see-through mice.

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The technique may help scientists answer long-standing questions in biology — for example, allowing researchers to observe a mouse’s brain activity, including in the deepest parts of the brain. It could be used to diagnose deep-seated tumors without surgery, help locate a vein for a blood draw or make cosmetic procedures like [tattoo removal](#) more precise, said Guosong Hong, a materials scientist at Stanford and one of the study’s leaders.