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Nanoparticle cancer treatment research. Image showing hybrid nanoparticles being used to treat a type of brain cancer (glioma) with heat. The technique uses spherical silica nanoparticles coated with gold that produce heat upon exposure to near-infrared light, enabling specific thermal destruction of cancer cells. Here, nanoshells (red) are seen travelling through the blood vessels of a human glioma grown in a mouse. This work was carried out by researchers at the Texas Center for Cancer Nanomedicine (TCCN), USA. Image produced in 2013.