

Findings revealed in an article published online recently in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* suggest that vinpocetine, a derivative of vincamine (from the periwinkle plant), could be useful for the treatment of chronic inflammatory diseases such as atherosclerosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), arthritis, infectious diseases and cancer.* Chen Yan, PhD from the University of Rochester Medical Center and colleagues reported that vinpocetine acts as an anti-inflammatory agent in a mouse model of lung inflammation and in cell cultures.*



“What is extremely exciting and promising about these findings is vinpocetine’s excellent safety profile,” Dr. Yan remarked. “Previously, most drugs tested in this area have failed, not because of a lack of efficacy, but because of safety issues. We’re very encouraged by these results and believe vinpocetine has great potential for the treatment of COPD and other inflammatory diseases.”

Editor’s note: Vinpocetine is a dietary supplement that has been used for many years to help prevent cerebrovascular disorders and memory loss.

—Dayna Dye

Reference

* Proc Natl Acad Sci. 2010 May 6.

Resveratrol Supplementation May Benefit Chronic Colitis Sufferers

According to a recent study by Spanish researchers, dietary supplementation of resveratrol may have a beneficial effect against chronic colitis.* Their research, which was published in the *European Journal of Pharmacology*, was intended to examine the protective effects of ingesting resveratrol supplements to combat chronic dextran sulphate sodium (DSS)-induced colitis, an experimentally-induced form of the disease



While resveratrol has been linked with potentially beneficial effects against cancer, inflammation, heart disease, Alzheimer’s, and diabetes, the scientists wanted to take a closer look at how this potent polyphenol would affect colitis. Their study involved six-week old mice that were split into two dietary groups. One group was on a standard diet while the other group’s diet was enriched with resveratrol. After 30 days, the mice were exposed to 3% DSS for five days, inducing acute colitis, which became chronic colitis after 21 days.

At the study’s conclusion, they noted that the resveratrol-fed animals survived and finished the treatment while animals fed a standard diet showed a mortality rate of 40%.

—Jon Finkel

Reference

* Eur J Pharmacol. 2010 May.

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