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

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**Reference**


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**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

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**Reference**

* Eur J Pharmacol. 2010 May.