

# New potential drug suppresses chemotherapy-induced pain

December 6 2023

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Onco Investigator Mario van der Stelt and his lab discovered a potential new drug that suppresses chemotherapy-induced neuropathic pain. The results are [published](#) in *Nature Communications*.

Neuropathic pain is a common side effect of chemotherapy and one of the major reasons for discontinuation of the treatment. LEI-515 is a substance that stops the breakdown of a natural compound in our bodies that's similar to a component found in marijuana (2-arachidonoylglycerol).

LEI-515 reduced the neuropathic pain caused by a chemotherapeutic drug called paclitaxel in a mouse model. Unlike some medications or substances, LEI-515 doesn't cause [behavioral changes](#) (psychoactive effects) or lead to physical dependence in mice.

This study provides a basis for creating new pain-relief drugs (analgesics) with fewer side effects for [cancer patients](#).

Mirjam Huizenga, first author of the paper, explains, "Cancer patients that suffer from chemotherapy-induced [neuropathic pain](#) are in dire need for effective medication without side effects, and our study provides promising results towards that goal."

**More information:** Ming Jiang et al, A monoacylglycerol lipase inhibitor showing therapeutic efficacy in mice without central side effects or dependence, *Nature Communications* (2023). [DOI: 10.1038/s41467-023-43606-3](#)

Provided by Leiden University

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