

# Jet-lag drug could help cancer patients

◆ A drug that relieves jet lag could prevent one of the most debilitating side effects of chemotherapy.

Researchers at Edinburgh University are starting clinical trials of melatonin on cancer patients after experiments showed it significantly improved chemotherapy-induced neuropathic pain. The side effect, which causes tingling pain sensations,

particularly in the fingers, affects 70 per cent of patients treated with chemotherapy each year, forcing many to abandon their cancer treatment.

Professor Lesley Colvin, a pain specialist at Edinburgh University, said: "This is an area where new therapies are urgently required."

The findings were published in the *Journal of Pineal Research*.

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