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Europe

## Drink red wine to stay young

Friday, February 02, 2007

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Eating foods like onions, bananas, rice and cherries, plus drinking red wine daily could slow down ageing process and help you stay young, says a new study.

Scientists have found melatonin, a substance found in grape skins protect cell from age-related damage, said the online edition of Daily Mail.

Melatonin is a naturally-occurring hormone not only found in grape skins but also in a whole range of other foods such as onions, bananas, rice and cherries.

Scientists from the Spanish Ageing Research Network took genetically modified mice who suffered accelerated ageing.

The researchers led by professor Dario Acuna Castroviejo, of the University of Granada, Spain, gave the rodents melatonin every day from five months of age and found that it helped counteract their age-related process.

If humans took a daily supplement of melatonin from the age of 30 or 40 onwards then they too could delay the normal ageing process, the scientists suggest.

The researchers, therefore, recommended that people wanting to fight the ravages of time boost their levels of melatonin through eating more foods such as onions, bananas, rice and cherries - plus drinking red wine.

Red wine has long been associated with all kinds of health benefits.

Previous studies have suggested that a glass of red wine a day may protect the heart. Other research has also shown it can help reduce the risk of developing some cancers and may even help stave off gum disease.

Melatonin plays a key role in the body clock and has become widely used by frequent travellers to try to counteract jet leg.

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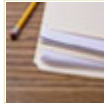
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