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**Scientists discover** **paracetamol secret;**DRUGS  
  
**BYLINE:** David Wilcock  
  
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Scientists have uncovered the secret behind how the common painkiller paracetamol works, potentially paving the way for pain medication with less harmful side-effects to be developed.

A team from King's College London have found that the drug, discovered in the 1890s and used widely since the 1950s, interacts with a protein found in nerve cells that was previously thought to trigger reactions to irritants.

Dr David Andersson, from the Wolfson Centre for Age-Related Diseases at KCL, said: "This is an extremely exciting finding.

It could impact hugely on the development of pain relief drugs."

The Mirror

November 23, 2011 Wednesday   
3 Star Edition

**SAFER PAIN PILL ON WAY;**MEDICINE  
  
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SCIENTISTS have finally discovered how paracetamol kills pain, paving the way for a safer replacement.

Despite its wide use in cold and flu medicine, people can still die from an overdose.

Researchers in British and Sweden found paracetamol does not work if a protein on the surface of nerve cells called TRPA1 is removed.

Dr David Andersson, from King's College, London, wrote in the journal Nature Communications: "This could have a huge impact on the development of new pain-relief drugs that are less toxic."