# Alcohol-Drug Interactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Interaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Anesthetics           | Administered prior to surgery to render a patient unconscious | - Increased amount of drug required to induce unconsciousness  
                         |                                        | - Increased risk of liver damage                                           |
| Antibiotics           | Used to treat infections                | - Reduced drug effectiveness  
                         |                                        | - Nausea/vomiting  
                         |                                        | - Headache  
                         |                                        | - Convulsions                               |
| Antidepressants       | To treat depression/mental illnesses    | - Increased sedative effects  
                         |                                        | - May decrease effectiveness of antidepressant  
                         |                                        | - Dangerous rise in blood pressure          |
| Antidiabetic medications | To help lower blood sugar levels       | - Reduced drug effectiveness  
                         |                                        | - Nausea  
                         |                                        | - Headache                                   |
| Antihistamines        | To treat allergic symptoms and insomnia | - Intensified sedation  
                         |                                        | - Excessive dizziness                                                   |
| Antipsychotic medications | To diminish psychotic symptoms: delusions/ hallucinations | - Intensified sedation  
                         |                                        | - Impaired coordination  
                         |                                        | - Potentially fatal breathing difficulties  |
| Antiseizure medications | To treat epilepsy                      | - Decreased protection against seizures  
                         |                                        | - Increased risk of drug-related side effects                             |

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To avoid drug/alcohol interactions, take these three actions:

- Read the warnings on your nonprescription labels or on your prescription container
- Ask your doctor about possible alcohol and drug interaction
- Check with your pharmacist if you have any questions about your medication, especially those you can buy without a doctor’s prescription.

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For more information visit:
- [http://www.rochester.edu/uhs/healthtopics/Alcohol/interactions.html](http://www.rochester.edu/uhs/healthtopics/Alcohol/interactions.html)
- [http://healthcenter.ucdavis.edu/topics/alcohol.html](http://healthcenter.ucdavis.edu/topics/alcohol.html)

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By: Kaitie D’Amico
## Think Before You Drink

- Mixing alcohol and medicines can be harmful. Alcohol, like some medicines, can make you sleepy, drowsy, or lightheaded. Drinking alcohol while taking medicines can intensify these effects.
- You may have trouble concentrating or performing mechanical skills. Small amounts of alcohol can make it dangerous to drive, and when you mix alcohol with certain medicines you put yourself at even greater risk.
- Combining alcohol with some medicines can lead to serious injuries.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narcotic pain relievers</td>
<td>To alleviate moderate to severe pain</td>
<td>- Intensified sedation&lt;br&gt;- Increased possibility of a fatal overdose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonnarcotic pain relievers</td>
<td>To alleviate mild to moderate pain</td>
<td>- Increased risk of stomach bleeding&lt;br&gt;- Increased risk of the inhibition of blood clotting&lt;br&gt;- Increased effects of consumed alcohol —Acetaminophen (Tylenol) taken during or after drinking may significantly increase one’s risk of liver damage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedatives/hypnotics</td>
<td>To alleviate anxiety and insomnia</td>
<td>- Severe drowsiness&lt;br&gt;- Depressed cardiac and respiratory functions&lt;br&gt;- Increased risk of coma or fatality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiulcer medication</td>
<td>To treat ulcers and other gastrointestinal problems</td>
<td>- Increased presence of drug increased risk of side effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular medication</td>
<td>To treat ailments of the heart/circulatory system</td>
<td>- Extreme dizziness or fainting&lt;br&gt;- Reduced drug effectiveness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Is There An Effect On Birth Control When You Drink?

- Women have more body fat and less alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH), the enzyme that breaks down alcohol, so they get drunker faster.
- If a woman is on hormonal birth control the birth control slows down the rate at which alcohol is eliminated from the body so they will feel the effects longer. This is because the birth control and the alcohol compete through the same metabolic pathway in the liver.
- It is important to be aware of this and adjust your drinking habits accordingly.

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May cause **DROWSINESS.** **ALCOHOL** may intensify this effect. **USE CARE** when operating a car or dangerous machinery.