

Alcohol-Drug Interactions

Drug	Purpose	Interaction
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

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.



For more information visit:

<http://www.rochester.edu/uhs/healthtopics/Alcohol/interactions.html>

<http://healthcenter.ucdavis.edu/topics/alcohol.html>

<http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Medicine/medicine.htm>

http://www.oakgov.com/health/assets/Documents/fs_dangerous_to_mix.pdf

Health Services

CSD 220

401-245-3156

Donna Darmody, Director of Health Education

CSD 210

401-254-3413

Counseling Center

CSD Room 200

401-254-3124

By: Kaitie D'Amico

Mixing Medicine and Alcohol



The Risks And Effects



Health Education Office
Center for Student Development
Room 211 #401-254-3491

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.



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

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 in 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.

