

PHARMACOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL WITH MEDICATIONS (Part 1 of 3)

Generic	Brand	Potential Reactions
ALLERGIES/COLD/FLU		
brompheniramine	Dimetapp Cold & Allergy	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased risk for overdose
cetirizine	Zyrtec	
chlorpheniramine	Sudafed Sinus & Allergy Triaminic Cold & Allergy Tylenol Allergy Sinus Tylenol Cold & Flu	
desloratadine	Clarinex	
diphenhydramine	Benadryl	
fexofenadine	Allegra, Allegra-D	
loratadine	Alavert Claritin, Claritin-D	
ANGINA		
isosorbide	Isordil	Rapid heartbeat, sudden changes in blood pressure, dizziness, fainting
nitroglycerin	Nitrostat, Nitro-Bid	
ANXIETY/EPILEPSY		
alprazolam	Xanax	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased risk for overdose, slowed or difficulty breathing, impaired motor control, unusual behavior, memory problems
clonazepam	Klonopin	
chlordiazepoxide	Librium	
diazepam	Valium	
lorazepam	Ativan	
paroxetine	Paxil	
clomipramine	Anafranil	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased risk for overdose, increased feelings of depression or hopelessness in adolescents (suicide)
fluvoxamine	Luvox	
herbal preparations	Kava Kava	Liver damage, drowsiness
ARTHRITIS		
celecoxib	Celebrex	Ulcers, stomach bleeding, liver problems
diclofenac	Voltaren	
naproxen	Naprosyn	
BLOOD CLOT		
warfarin	Coumadin	Occasional drinking may lead to internal bleeding; heavier drinking also may cause bleeding or may have the opposite effect, resulting in possible blood clots, strokes, or heart attacks
COUGH		
dextromethorpan	Delsym Robitussin Cough & Cold	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased risk for overdose
guaifenesin + codeine	—	
DEPRESSION		
amitriptyline	—	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased risk for overdose, increased feelings of depression or hopelessness in adolescents (suicide)
bupropion	Wellbutrin	
citalopram	Celexa	
desipramine	Norpramin	
escitalopram	Lexapro	
fluoxetine	Prozac	
nefazodone	—	
paroxetine	Paxil	
sertraline	Zoloft	
trazodone	—	
venlafaxine	Effexor	
herbal preparations	St. John's Wort	

(continued)

PHARMACOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL WITH MEDICATIONS (Part 2 of 3)

Generic	Brand	Potential Reactions
DIABETES		
glyburide	—	Abnormally low blood sugar levels, flushing reaction (nausea, vomiting, headache, rapid heartbeat, sudden changes in blood pressure)
metformin	Glucophage	
ENLARGED PROSTATE		
doxazosin	Cardura	Dizziness, light headedness, fainting
prazosin	Minipress	
tamsulosin	Flomax	
terazosin	Hytrin	
HEARTBURN/GERD		
cimetidine	Tagamet	Rapid heartbeat, sudden changes in blood pressure (metoclopramide), increased alcohol effect
metoclopramide	Reglan	
nizatidine	Axid	
ranitidine	Zantac	
HYPERLIPOPROTEINEMIA		
atorvastatin	Lipitor	Liver damage (all medications); increased flushing and itching (niacin)
ezetimibe + simvastatin	Vytorin	
lovastatin	—	
lovastatin + niacin	Advicor	
niacin	Niaspan	
pravastatin	Pravachol	
rosuvastatin	Crestor	
simvastatin	Zocor	
HYPERTENSION		
benzapril	Lotensin	Dizziness, fainting, drowsiness, heart problems such arrhythmia
clonidine	Catapres	
doxazosin	Cardura	
enalapril	Vaseretic	
hydrochlorothiazide	Capozide	
	Lopressor HCT	
losartan	Cozaar	
prazosin	Minipress	
quinapril	Accupril	
terazosin	Hytrin	
INFECTION		
cycloserine	Seromycin	Fast heartbeat, sudden changes in blood pressure, stomach pain, upset stomach, vomiting, headache, or flushing or redness of the face; liver damage (isoniazid, ketoconazole)
griseofulvin	—	
isoniazid	—	
ketoconazole	Nizoral	
metronidazole	Flagyl	
nitrofurantoin	Macrochantin	
tinidazole	Tindamax	
INSOMNIA		
diphenhydramine	Sominex	Drowsiness, sleepiness, dizziness, slowed or difficulty breathing, impaired motor control, unusual behavior, memory problems
doxylamine	Unisom	
estazolam	—	
eszopiclone	Lunesta	
temazepam	Restoril	
zolpidem	Ambien	
herbal preparations	Chamomile, Valerian, Lavender	

(continued)

PHARMACOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL WITH MEDICATIONS (Part 3 of 3)

Generic	Brand	Potential Reactions
MUSCLE PAIN		
carisoprodol	Soma	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased risk of seizures, increased risk for overdose, slowed or difficulty breathing, impaired motor control, unusual behavior, memory problems
cyclobenzaprine	—	
NAUSEA		
dimenhydrinate	Dramamine	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased risk for overdose
hydroxyzine	—	
meclizine	Antivert	
promethazine	—	
PAIN/HEADACHE/MIGRAINE		
acetaminophen	Tylenol	Upset stomach, bleeding, ulcers, rapid heartbeat; liver damage (acetaminophen)
acetaminophen + aspirin	Excedrin	
ibuprofen	Advil	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased risk for overdose, slowed or difficulty breathing, impaired motor control, unusual behavior, memory problems
	Motrin	
naproxen	Aleve	
butalbital + codeine	Fiorinal with Codeine	
hydrocodone	Vicodin	
meperidine	Demerol	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased risk of seizures
oxycodone	Percocet	
SEIZURE		
clonazepam	Klonopin	Drowsiness, dizziness, increased risk of seizures
phenobarbital	—	
phenytoin	Dilantin	

REFERENCES

Harmful Interactions: Mixing Alcohol with Medicines. *NIAAA*. Accessed: September 10, 2013. Available at: <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/Medicine/medicine.htm>

Not an inclusive list of medications that may interact with alcohol. Please see drug monograph at www.eMPR.com and/or contact company for full drug labeling. (Created 9/2013)