The Risk is in the Mix

Medication	Alcohol Interactions
ADHD Meds/Stimulants Ex: Adderall, Concerta, Dexdrine, Focalin, Ritalin, Strattera, Vyvanse	**Increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, drowsiness, dizziness, seizures** ** some may also impair concentration and/or cause liver damage
Allergy Meds/Antihistamines Ex: Benadryl, Claritin, Tylenol Allergy Sinus, Tylenol Cold & Flu, Zyrtec	**Intensified sedation, excessive dizziness, increased risk of overdose**
Antibiotics Ex: Flagyl, Nizoral, Zithromax	**Reduced drug effectiveness, nausea and vomiting, headache, increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, longer recovery from the illness**
Antidepressants Ex: Abilify, Celexa, Effexor, Elavil, Lexapro, Prozac, Wellbutrin	**Increased sedative effects, increased blood pressure, depression** ** some may also impair motor control, increase your sensitivity to alcohol, and/or cause liver damage
Anxiety Meds/Depressants Ex: Abilify, Celexa, Effexor, Elavil, Lexapro, Prozac, Wellbutrin	**Increased sedative effects, increased blood pressure, depression** ** some may also impair motor control, increase your sensitivity to alcohol, and/or cause liver damage
Caffeine Ex: Chai, Chocolate, Coffee, Redbull, Soda	**Decreased effects from alcohol, which can lead to heavier drinking and a higher risk for alcohol poisoning**
Cough or Cold Meds Ex: Robitussin Cough, Robitussin A-C	**Increased drowsiness, increased dizziness** ** codeine and alcohol will severely impact the nervous, respiratory, and/or cardiac systems and could lead to death
Non-narcotic Pain Relievers/NSAIDS Ex: Acetaminophen (Tylenol), Aspirin, Ibuprofen (Motrin), Naproxen	**Increased risk of stomach bleeding, increased risk of impaired blood clotting, decreased effects from alcohol** ** acetaminophen taken during or after drinking may significantly increase the risk of liver damage

Medications and drugs work by traveling through the blood stream to the site of action where they exert their desired effect. As enzymes metabolize the substance, its effects are diminished until they are eliminated from the body. The amount of the substance that reaches the site of action is called availability. Turns out, alcohol behaves in a similar fashion, and is even metabolized by the same enzymes. As such, when medications and alcohol interact, they compete for the same enzymes, which in turn affect the medications availability – either diminishing or enhancing it. Chronic alcohol use can result in a heightened level of enzymes in the body, which can lessen the medication's availability. Additionally, enzymes activated with chronic use can chemically change medications and cause liver damage.

For sources and more information stop by the WRC!

The Wellness Resource Center