

Alcohol & Your Health: What Are the Risks?

The Damage You Can't Always See



If you have a long-term health condition, alcohol can make it worse. For example, if you have diabetes, heart disease, or high blood pressure, drinking any amount of alcohol can make your condition worse.

Tell your health care providers about your drinking habits. Being open and honest will help them to understand you as a person and recommend the best treatment choices for you.

Cancer

- Alcohol increases your risk of cancer.
- Drinking too much alcohol increases your risk for developing cancers of the:
 - Mouth
 - Breast
 - Throat
 - Liver
 - Colon

Arms & Legs

- Swelling
- Pain and tingling
- Body shakes or tremors

Liver & Pancreas

- Liver Disease/Failure
- Wasting away of Liver (Cirrhosis)
- Injury to the Pancreas (Pancreatitis)

Digestive System

- Heartburn
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Bleeding from esophagus or stomach

Brain

- Mood and behavior changes
- Learning and memory problems
- Poor balance and reaction time

Lungs & Heart

- Lung infection (Pneumonia)
- High blood pressure
- Weakening of heart muscle
- Irregular heart beat
- Heart attack
- Stroke

Sexual & Reproductive Health

Men

- Low sex drive
- Not able to have an erection

Women

- Periods that last longer than normal
- No period at all

Risky sexual behaviors, like unprotected sex

- Sexually transmitted infections
- Unplanned pregnancy

Reduce a couple's chances of getting pregnant

Drinking during pregnancy

- Birth defects
- Miscarriage
- Premature birth