

Opioids and Alcohol

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Mixing Opioids and Alcohol

- Mixing alcohol with opioids can slow breathing and other functions to dangerous levels and lead to coma.

The Effects of Opioids

- Effects the hippocampus part of the brain (located in the middle part of the brain, temporal lobe, key function is learning and memory). Can lead to memory loss
- Can prevent the brain from forming new memories.

Types of Opioids and the Side Effects

- Vicodin –Light-headedness, dizziness, sedation, nausea, and vomiting
- Tramadol – Headaches, sleepiness, constipation, dry mouth, sweating, and low energy
- Percocet - Irritability, anxiety, weakness, abdominal cramps, insomnia, backache, and joint pain
- Oxycontin – Pain relief, faintness, exhaustion, confusion, difficulty concentrating, euphoria, and negative mood
- Hydrocodone – Stomach pain, dry mouth, difficult, frequent, or painful urination.
- Morphine – Stomach pain, cramps, small pupils, and black circles in the middle of the eyes

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Combining alcohol with opioids can lead to side effects such as:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Dehydration
- Changes in blood pressure
- Irregular heart rate and rhythm
- Cardiovascular instability
- Dizziness or loss of coordination
- Marked disinhibition
- Abnormal behavior
- Loss of consciousness
- Respiratory arrest