

MEDICATION - DRUG INTERACTIONS

Adverse Drug Reaction or Medication Interactions – occur when one drug interacts with another or when a drug interacts with what you eat or drink.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) Facts

- More than 2.2 million or 6.7 % of hospitalized patients have a serious ADR each year
- Deaths due to ADRs are one of the leading causes of death in the U.S. with more than 106,000 deaths every year

Lazarou J, Pomeranz B, Corey PN. Incidence of adverse drug reactions in hospitalized patients: A meta-analysis of prospective studies. JAMA 1998;279:1200–1205.

Risk Factors for ADRs

- Increase with the number of medications you use
- Types of medications you take can increase the risk of an ADR
- Your age and your diet can increase the risk of an ADR
- The particular disease you may have can affect your risk
- Older adults are at greater risk of drug interactions than younger adults because a large portion of seniors take prescription drugs and over-the-counter products

MEDICATION - DRUG INTERACTIONS

Types of Drug Interactions

Drug - Drug Interactions

- Interactions can occur with prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs and supplements

Drug - Food Interactions

- Examples include dairy products that interfere with absorption and citrus can interfere with some statins and blood pressure medications

Drug - Condition Interactions

- Examples include ibuprofen, naproxen and decongestants that can increase blood pressure

Prevention of Drug Interactions

- Make a list of all medications, vitamins, herbals and supplements and update it
- Talk to your doctor about all medications and any supplements that you are taking
- Always read the drug information and the label that the pharmacy gives you
- Try to use only one pharmacy for all of your prescriptions. That way your pharmacist has a record of all the medications you take