Alcohol intoxication

Also called: alcohol poisoning
A disturbance in behavior or mental function during or after alcohol consumption.

Very common
More than 3 million US cases per year

- Usually self-treatable
- Usually self-diagnosable
- Lab tests or imaging often required
- Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

Alcohol intoxication can affect a person's judgment.
Symptoms after drinking include slurred speech, incoordination, and mood and behavior changes. Sometimes, coma can occur.
Alcohol intoxication is managed with rest, hydration, and stopping alcohol use. Severe cases require hospital admission, IV fluids, observation, and supportive care.

Ages affected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-13</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-18</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-40</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>41-60</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>70%</td>
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</tbody>
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Symptoms

Usually self-diagnosable
Symptoms after drinking include slurred speech, incoordination, and mood and behavior changes. Sometimes, coma can occur.

People may experience:
Whole body: blackout, dehydration, or flushing
Cognitive: amnesia, mental confusion, or unresponsiveness
Gastrointestinal: nausea or vomiting
Behavioral: aggression or lack of restraint
Also common: depression, euphoria, problems with coordination, rapid involuntary eye movement, or slurred speech
Treatments

Treatment consists of vitamins and fluids
Alcohol intoxication is managed with rest, hydration, and stopping alcohol use. Severe cases require hospital admission, IV fluids, observation, and supportive care.

Medical procedure
Alcohol detoxification: Medical management of symptoms that occur when an alcoholic abruptly stops drinking. Usually includes prescribed medication.

Supportive care
IV fluids: Delivering fluids, medication, or blood directly into a vein.
Increase fluid intake: Improves hydration.

Medications
Vitamin: Helps promote normal body function, growth, and development.
- Thiamine (Vitamin B-1 (mononitrate))

Self-care
Alcohol avoidance: Reducing exposure to alcohol which can exacerbate or cause disease.
Rest: Reducing activity for a short period of time following an injury to promote healing.

Specialists
Primary care provider (PCP): Prevents, diagnoses, and treats diseases.
Emergency medicine doctor: Treats patients in the emergency department.

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure to contact a healthcare provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

Sources: Mayo Clinic and others. Learn more