

COMMON DRUG SIDE EFFECTS

This information is not intended to be inclusive of all side effects, but is included to provide an easy reference for students.

1. Analgesics – GI irritation if aspirin based. Respiratory depression, constipation, urinary retention, dizziness, hypotension, nausea, and confusion with narcotic analgesics.
2. Antacids – constipation.
3. Antianginal – headaches.
4. Anti-anxiety/tranquilizers – dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, slurred speech, ataxia, blurred vision, falls.
5. Antiarrhythmic – confusion, slurred speech, lightheadedness, seizures, hypotension.
6. Antibiotics – secondary yeast infections, diarrhea, secondary clostridium difficile infections.
7. Anticoagulants – uncontrolled bleeding, bruising.
8. Anticonvulsants/antiepileptics – dizziness, lethargy.
9. Antidepressant/mood elevators – dry mouth, constipation, blurred vision, postural hypotension, dizziness, tachycardia, urinary retention, interactions with alcohol.
10. Antidiabetics – low blood sugar.
11. Antidiarrheals – constipation.
12. Antifungals – nausea if alcohol used while on some medications.
13. Antihistamines – dizziness, lethargy, urinary difficulty, short-term memory dysfunction.
14. Antihypertensives – dizziness, falls, orthostatic hypotension.
15. Antiparkinsons – uncontrolled movements such as grimacing, tongue movements, rapid eye blinking, twisting of the necks, arm and legs, dark urine.
16. Antipsychotics – jaundice, sedation, dizziness, falls, ocular changes. Orthostatic hypotension, scaling on the skin with sunlight exposure, uncontrolled movements such as grimacing, tongue movements, rapid eye blinking, twisting of the neck, arm and legs.

17. Bronchodilators – restlessness, nervousness, confusion, palpitations, tachycardia, chest pain, increased blood pressure.
18. Cardiovascular drugs – fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, vision disturbances, nightmares, nervousness, drowsiness, hallucinations, bradycardia, arrhythmias, and hypokalemia with cardiac glycosides.
19. Diuretics – fluid and electrolyte imbalance, dehydration, hypotension, increased blood glucose levels.
20. Corticosteroids – sodium retention, increased blood pressure, insomnia, psychotic behavior, osteoporosis with long-term use.
21. Laxatives – diarrhea, malabsorption, reduced absorption of fat-soluble vitamins, and magnesium toxicity with magnesium based laxatives.
22. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) – GI irritation, prolonged bleeding time, tinnitus, vertigo, increase risk of toxicity in residents with impaired renal function.
23. Sedatives/hypnotics – dizziness and falls.
24. Skeletal muscle relaxants – lethargy, drowsiness.