

# The Interaction of Ethanol with Drugs

**REFERENCE:** Havier RG: The Interaction of Ethanol with Drugs; *Forensic Sci Rev* 3:41–56; 1991.

**ABSTRACT:** Ethanol is perhaps the most widely used drug in society today. Its reactions in the human body are varied and complex but mainly it depresses the central nervous system, which in turn causes a deleterious effect on psychomotor functions. When any of several classes of drugs is introduced into the body along with ethanol, each drug can affect the other's absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion. The toxic effects of the drug combination may be potentiated, depending upon several factors such as whether the ingested level of ethanol was acute or chronic, and the pharmacodynamics of the second drug.

**KEYWORDS:** Alcohol, central nervous system, drugs of abuse, ethanol interactions, MEOS