

DRUG INTERACTION



Ministry of Health
Malaysia



WHAT IS DRUG INTERACTION?

1

Drug interaction is an interaction between a drug and another substance that can cause a response, which is different from the intended use of the drug.

2

The interaction may cause a drug to be more or less effective or even potentially harmful to patients.

3

You may experience a mild, moderate or severe interaction effects.



4 CATEGORIES OF DRUG INTERACTIONS



Can occur when 2 or more different drugs are taken together.

e.g. Cough mixture taken together with antihistamine can increase the drowsiness effect and are not advisable to take while driving or operating heavy machinery.



Occur when a drug is taken together with certain food/beverage.

e.g. Grape juice taken together with antihypertensive drug (e.g. Nifedipine) may decrease the effect of the drug.



Occur when a drug is taken together with herbal/food supplement.

e.g. Ginseng taken together with anti-diabetic can increase hypoglycemic effect (low blood glucose level).



May occur when existing medical condition makes certain drug potentially harmful.

e.g. Patient with high blood pressure may experience unwanted reaction if they use nasal decongestant.

ADVICE TO DRUG USER

●
Make sure to read the directions on the label and follow them carefully.

●
Make sure to read warnings and drug labels and tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other preparations including herbal & homeopathic remedies / over-the-counter & prescription medicines.

REMEMBER !

The drug label will tell you

- 1 The intended use of a drug.
- 2 How to take a drug.
- 3 Risk of unwanted side effects.

Do learn and know about your drug interactions as it may affect your health especially if you are having chronic illness.



BEFORE TAKING ANY DRUG, ASK YOUR PHARMACIST OR DOCTOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS



1

Can I take it together with other drugs?

2

Should I avoid certain food, beverages or other products?

3

How will the drug work in my body?

4

What are the possible signs of drug interaction that I should know?

5

How can I get more information about my drug or my condition?

●

Taking drug properly as directed can reduce the risk of harmful drug interactions.

●

Tell your pharmacist or doctor if you are taking food supplements.

●

If you have any side effects or unexpected symptoms while taking a medicine, inform your doctor or pharmacist immediately.



ATTENTION

All information on this pamphlet
is for patients' educational
purposes only.

Please obtain appropriate advice
from your pharmacist or doctor
if you have any questions
regarding your medications.

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