How are my medications affected by smoking?

Many commonly used medications interact with chemicals in tobacco smoke. This results in a lowering of blood levels of these medications. Stopping smoking also interacts with medications but in the opposite way- it raises medication levels. That is why it is important for your doctor to know if you smoke and when you decide to quit smoking.

The liver is an important organ for purifying the body.

- ✓ By working hard to remove harmful chemicals and toxins from the body, the liver can keep the body in a normal balance.
- ✓ Even medications that we use to treat disease are removed from the body in this way.

Tars in cigarette smoke "turn on" a part of the liver system.

- ✓ This means that in a smoker, this enzyme works faster and better than usual.
- ✓ In smokers, some medications are taken out of the body faster than normal.
- ✓ Smokers may need to be on higher medication doses, in order to correct this problem and for those medications to work.
- ✓ This is not usually a good thing and can lead to more medication side effects.
- ✓

IMPORTANT POINT TO REMEMBER

The effect of tars on the liver could result in:

1. Higher medication doses for a smoker
2. Medications not working as well in a smoker
3. More side effects from medication in a smoker

These are the medications that are affected by smoking.

Check (√) the box below if you are currently taking any of these medications. ↓

Trade Name	Generic Name	Check Here (√)
Elavil	Amitriptyline	
Anafranil	Clomipramine	
Aventyl/ Pamelor	Nortriptyline	
Tofranil	Imipramine	
Luvox	Fluvoxamine	
Thorazine	Chlorpromazine	
Prolixin	Fluphenazine	
Haldol	Haloperidol	
Clozaril	Clozapine	
Zyprexa	Olanzapine	
Tylenol	Acetaminophen	
Inderal	Propranolol	
Slo-Bid Slo-Phyllin, Theo-24, Theo-Dur, Theobid, Theovent	Theophylline	
Coffee/Tea	Caffeine	

What other medications are you taking?

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Talk to your doctor

- About your current medications and the effect of smoking.

Tell your doctor

- If you are thinking about quitting smoking since it can have an impact on your medications.