

Smoking-drug Interaction Can Kill

General public has developed enough awareness of the relationship between smoking and cancers, as well as between smoking and respiratory diseases. However, the mischief of smoking is more than that. Smoking causing cancer is an inevitable truth yet the effect may only be seen after years. However, its harmful effect is immediate to patients having chronic diseases and taking medications, which is possibly fatal.

More and more research and findings worldwide reveal the smoking-drug interaction, and Theophylline, Flecainide, Insulin, Oral contraceptives, Beta-blockers, Beta-blockers, Thiothixene and H₂ blocker are medicines that their therapeutic responses can be affected by smoking. For Theophylline, the clearance is 126% higher on average and more variable in smokers. Also, a clinical study showed that on average insulin-dependent diabetic smokers needed 15 to 20% more insulin than non-smokers, and up to 30% more if they smoked heavily.

It is strongly believed that non-smoking patients are also adversely affected on their drug treatment if they are regularly exposed to a smoking environment. So, patients with chronic diseases and taking medications are advised not to go to smoking areas in order to get rid from the smoking effects.