

Alcohol Is STILL a Drug



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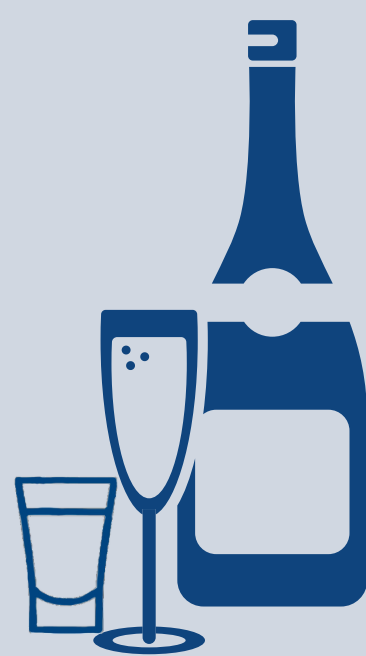
<https://youtu.be/FcgmJgytitw>

November 2, 2021 | Randall Webber

"Pharmacotherapy in the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorders"

Alcohol Withdrawal Symptoms

Craving
Tremor
Anxiety
Sweating
Insomnia



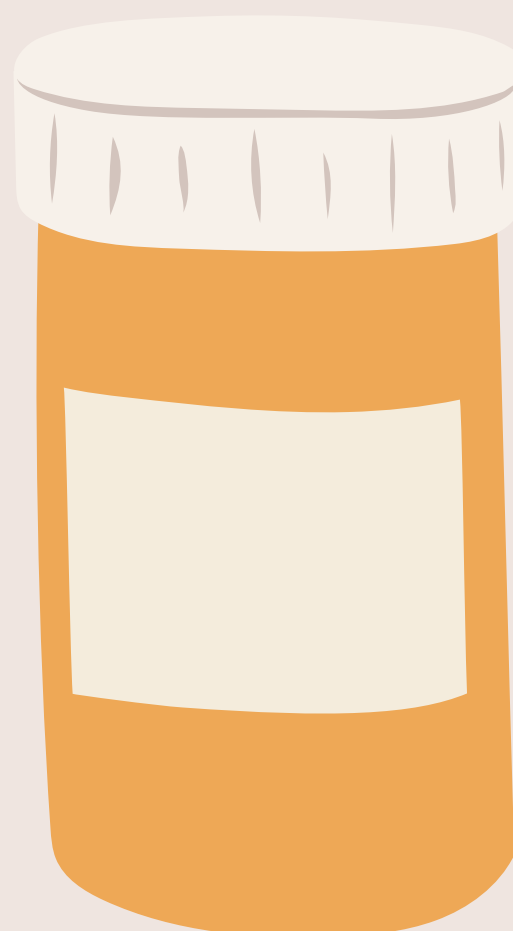
Nausea
Rapid pulse
High blood pressure
Fever
Seizures

*Severe alcohol withdrawal symptoms can be a medical emergency requiring hospitalization.

Medications Used to Reduce or Stop Drinking

Disulfiram (Antabuse®)

- Blocks the conversion of acetaldehyde to acetic acid
- Inhibits aldehyde dehydrogenase
- Drinking produces aversive effects
- Most reactions last about 30 minutes
- Efficacy depends on patient compliance



Acamprosate (Campral®)

- Increases GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid) and decreases glutamate
- Increases β -endorphins
- Rare side effects are generally mild and transient
- May work better in combination with disulfiram

Naltrexone (Revia® and injectable Vivitrol®)

- An opioid antagonist
- Makes drinking less pleasurable
- Alcohol detox must be completed
- Depot form works for 30 days
- Reduces craving for alcohol, drinking days, and length of relapse