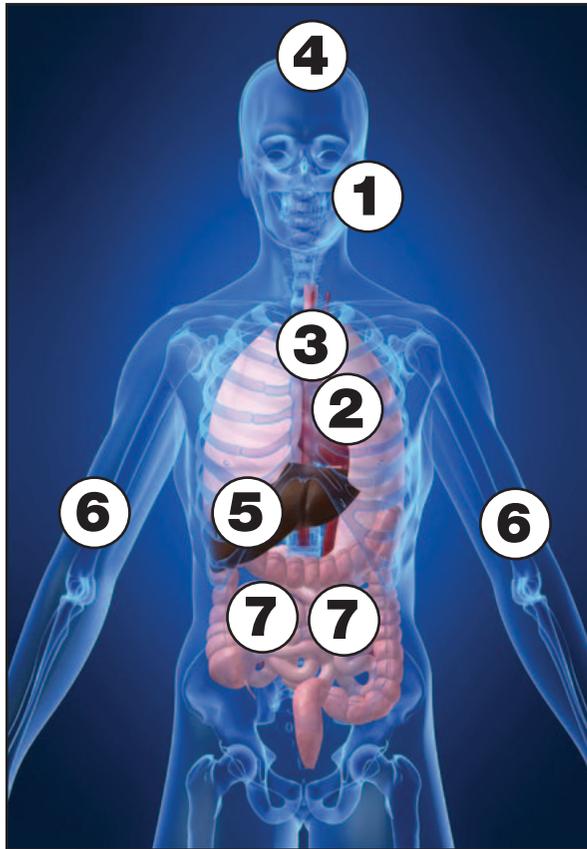


What Happens when a Person Gets 'Drunk'

Alcohol is the most commonly abused psycho-active substance (Drug). The drinker will begin to feel the effects of alcohol if he drinks it faster than his liver can metabolized what is in his bloodstream. If he continues to drink at this elevated rate he will begin to be poisoned by the alcohol and eventually loose consciousness, and in extreme cases may die.



Alcohol's Path Through the Body

1. Alcohol normally enters the body through the mouth.
2. Alcohol enters the stomach and begins to be absorbed by the stomach lining and thereafter by the small intestine.
3. Alcohol enters the blood circulation system and is spread throughout the body in the bloodstream.
4. Effects from the alcohol intoxication are felt most in the brain, these are the feelings of being drunk.
5. The liver begins to metabolize the alcohol at a rate of approx. one unit per hour for a healthy liver.
5. Muscles throughout the body begin to use up the nutrients from the alcohol. That which cannot be used at that time is then stored as fat in the body.
7. Any waste products and excess water are filtered from the blood stream by the kidneys and past out of the body in the urine.

Slurred Speech
Euphoria
Loss of Balance
Poor Muscle Coordination
Flushed Face
Red Eyes
Vomiting
Dehydration
Reduced Inhibitions
Erratic Behaviour
Unconsciousness
Coma
Death



What is a Hangover?

A hangover is a combination of symptoms caused by excessive alcohol consumption. These symptoms include:

Dehydration	Sweating
Headache	Anxiety
Fatigue	Dysphoria
Vomiting	Irritability
Diarrhoea	Light/Noise sensitivity
Flatulence	Erratic motor functions
Weakness	Tremors
High Temperature	Trouble sleeping
High Heart Rate	Severe hunger
Hypersalivation	Halitosis
Body Aches	Poor depth perception

What is going on inside the body?

Alcohol dehydrates the body causing excessive urination it also reduces the fluids in the brain. As the liver breaks down the alcohol it produces by-products including ethanal which is 10-30 times more toxic than the actual alcohol. Due to the various chemical functions within the body there is a reduction in the amount of glucose available to the brain which inhibits some of the brain's functions.

Is There a Cure for a Hangover?

Not really. There is little research into such a cure and the general consensus is that there is no effective cure. All of the old wives tales are just that, tales. Some things can make you feel a bit better, but they are only covering the symptoms or slowing the process down. Even drinking more alcohol is suggested by some to work , but this only prolongs the detoxification process.