

Alcohol and Your Liver

Information for patients



The liver is the first organ to process alcohol. Excessive drinking leads to a build up of fat in the liver.

The damage is often reversible if you cut down or stop drinking alcohol. Within a few weeks after stopping alcohol, a reduction in liver fat can be seen.

Continuing to drink excessively, increases the risk of the liver becoming inflamed, which increases the risk of scar tissue as the liver tries to heal itself. This is called fibrosis, which can lead to cirrhosis.

Consider reducing your alcohol consumption:

 14 units a week is advised for both men and women, with two or three free alcohol days in the week.





What is a unit of alcohol?

At a glance:



1 pint of beer / lager / cider (4% ABV)



330 ml bottle of beer / lager / cider (4.5% ABV)



175 ml glass of wine (12.5% ABV)



250 ml glass of wine (12.5% ABV)



750 ml bottle of wine (13% ABV)



25 ml measure of spirits (40% ABV)

Further Information



Alcohol misuse
NHS (www.nhs.uk)



Alcohol units
NHS (www.nhs.uk)



Love Your Liver Month
British Liver Trust
(www.britishliver
trust.org.uk)



Alcohol Tips
British Liver Trust
(www.britishliver
trust.org.uk)



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LN005878 Publication date 08 / 2024 Review date 08 / 2027