

Alcohol Addiction, Alcoholism Rehab & Alcoholism Treatment

Alcohol is available in many different forms, including beer, wine and liquor. It is a depressant, which slows your body down making it difficult to think clearly. Ethanol alcohol, also referred to as ETOH for its chemical composition, is the form that is ingested orally by humans. Alcohol depresses the central nervous system, interfering with communication between brain cells.

Effects of Alcohol and Why Treatment for Alcoholism is Important

Alcohol affects every organ in the body. It is rapidly absorbed from the stomach and small intestine into the bloodstream and is metabolized in the liver by enzymes. The liver can only metabolize a small amount of alcohol at a time, leaving the excess alcohol to circulate throughout the body. The intensity of the effect of alcohol on the body is directly related to the amount consumed. Users can suffer from alcohol poisoning, which is a direct result of binge drinking and can lead to a coma and even death.

Lasting/Long-Term Effects

Long-term alcohol abuse allows the liver to become more efficient at removing alcohol from the bloodstream, causing the addict to consume larger quantities in order to reach the same effects. Excessive drinking, both in the form of long-term heavy drinking and in the form of binge drinking, is associated with numerous health problems, which include the following: Chronic diseases such as liver cirrhosis (damage to liver cells) and pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) are common, as well as various cancers including liver, mouth, throat, larynx and esophagus. High blood pressure is also an effect of prolonged drinking, as are psychological disorders. Alcohol can also lead to unintentional injuries, such as car accidents, falls, drowning, firearms injuries and more. It can also contribute to violent behavior, homicide and suicide. Habitual alcohol consumption can lead to alcohol dependence and addiction.

Detox, Rehab and Treatment for Alcoholism

Because alcohol is legal and most often socially accepted, it is difficult to convince an addict that they need treatment. Withdrawal from alcohol can be extremely dangerous, as the alcoholic can experience the shake and/or delirium tremens, depending upon how advanced their addiction is. For the well-being of the client, detox monitoring may be necessary. Treatment can help the addict to discover the underlying issues that lead to their addiction.