













Psychotropic drugs affected by smoking status

Drug	Effect of smoking on plasma levels		Action to be taken on stopping smoking	Action to be taken on (re)starting smoking
Benzodiazepines	 0 – 50%	Plasma levels reduced by 0-50%, dependent on drug and smoking status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor closely • Consider reducing dose by up to 25% over one week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor closely • Consider re-starting 'normal' smoking dose
Carbamazepine		Unclear, but smoking may reduce carbamazepine plasma levels to a small extent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for changes in severity of adverse effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor plasma levels
Chlorpromazine		Plasma levels reduced. Varied estimates of exact effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor closely • Consider dose reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor closely • Consider re-starting previous smoking dose
Clozapine	 up to 50%	Reduces plasma levels by up to 50%. Plasma level reduction may be greater in those receiving valproate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take plasma level before stopping • On stopping, reduce dose gradually (over a week) until around 75% of original dose reached (i.e. reduce by 25%) • Repeat plasma level one week after stopping • Anticipate further dose reductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take plasma level before re-starting • Increase dose to previous smoking dose over one week • Repeat plasma level
Duloxetine	 up to 50%	Plasma levels may be reduced by up to 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor closely • Dose may need to be reduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider reintroducing previous smoking dose
Fluphenazine	 up to 50%	Reduces plasma levels by up to 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On stopping, reduce dose by 25% • Monitor carefully over following 4-8 weeks • Consider further dose reductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On re-starting, increase dose to previous smoking dose
Fluvoxamine	 1/3	Plasma levels decreased by around one-third	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor closely • Dose may need to be reduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose may need to be increased to previous level
Haloperidol	 25 – 50%	Reduces plasma levels by around 25-50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce dose by around 25% • Monitor carefully • Consider further dose reductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On re-starting, increase dose to previous smoking dose
Mirtazapine		Unclear, but effect probably minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor
Olanzapine	 up to 50%	Reduces plasma levels by up to 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take plasma level before stopping • On stopping, reduce dose by 25% • After one week, repeat plasma level • Consider further dose reductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take plasma level before re-starting • Increase dose to previous smoking dose over one week • Repeat plasma level
Trazodone	 25%	Around 25% reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for increased sedation • Consider dose reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor closely • Consider increasing dose
Tricyclic anti-depressants	 25 – 50%	Plasma levels reduced by 25-50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor closely • Consider reducing dose by 10-25% over one week • Consider further dose reductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor closely • Consider re-starting previous smoking dose

Source: Taylor,D., Barnes,T., Young, A.The Maudsley Prescribing Guidelines in Psychiatry: 13th edition. Chichester: WILEY Blackwell; 2018

Smoking can reduce
the effectiveness of
some psychotropic
drugs by up to 50%



Reference

Psychotropic drugs affected
by smoking status

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