

Toxic Drug Interactions in Psychiatry

Medication	Potentially Raised By ¹	Toxic Effects
Benzos	CYP3A4 inhibitors (see below) raise alprazolam and triazolam. Valproate can raise diazepam and lorazepam. Fluoxetine, amiodarone, and cimetidine inhibit multiple enzymes and can raise some benzos.	Falls, cognitive problems, respiratory depression.
Carbamazepine	CYP3A4 inhibitors Azole antifungals, anti-retrovirals , pimozone, diltiazem, verapamil, cimetidine, grapefruit juice, and cipro-/norfloxacin.	Coma, respiratory depression, seizures, arrhythmia, anticholinergic effects.
Lithium	Thiazide diuretics (HCTZ), ACE inhibitors (-prils), angiotensin receptor blockers (-sartans), NSAIDs, antibiotics (eg, tetracyclines, levofloxacin).	Renal failure, cerebellar damage, arrhythmias, coma, seizures. Past toxicity is not a contraindication for future lithium trials.
Trazodone	CYP3A4 and 2D6 inhibitors Azole antifungals, fluoxetine, paroxetine, pimozone , diltiazam, verapamil, cimetidine, grapefruit juice, anti-retrovirals , and antibiotics (cipro- and norfloxacin).	Sedation with CYP3A4 inhibitors. CYP2D6 inhibitors may raise levels of mCPP, a metabolite that can cause depression, anxiety, and hallucinations.
Tricyclics	CYP2D6 inhibitors Fluoxetine, paroxetine , sertraline at ≥ 150 mg, bupropion, duloxetine , phenothiazines (chlorpromazine, perphenazine, thioridazine), pimozone, quinidine, ritonavir .	Cardiac arrest, arrhythmias, respiratory depression, seizures, hallucinations, hyperthermia.

¹ Potent inhibitors are in bold