

Cancer

Alcohol may be a cause of some types of cancer

Cancer is caused by a complex interplay of factors, including our genetic make-up, what we eat and drink, the lifestyle choices we make, hormones, radiation, stress, lack of social support, the environment in which we live and work, and some factors that are not yet known.

Alcohol consumption has been studied as a possible cause of cancer, especially in recent years, and some organisations have concluded that alcohol consumption can cause certain types of cancer. For example, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a part of the World Health Organisation, has concluded that cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, liver, colorectum, and breast are caused by alcohol consumption and that the risk increases with the amount of alcohol consumed. Alcohol may also be linked to other forms of cancer including lung, stomach, pancreatic and endometrial cancer. The United States National Toxicology Program (NTP) found that studies indicate that the risk of cancer related to alcohol consumption is most pronounced among smokers and at the highest levels of consumption.

On the other hand, some studies have suggested that moderate alcohol consumption can be linked to a lower risk of bladder, kidney, ovarian and prostate cancer, as well as non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Still, we do not encourage people to drink alcohol beverages for any health benefits they may provide.



take action

Everyone's health circumstances are different. You should talk to your doctor if you have any questions about the health risks and benefits of alcohol consumption.

You shouldn't drink alcohol for its health benefits – for good health, you should look to diet, exercise and other lifestyle factors.

talkingalcohol.com

is a site dedicated to helping people make informed choices about alcohol



other websites

These sites contain further information that you may find useful. However, SABMiller is not responsible for the content of these sites.

- American Cancer Society, Alcohol Use & Cancer
www.cancer.org/Cancer/CancerCauses/DietandPhysicalActivity/alcohol-use-and-cancer
- Cancer Research UK, Alcohol and Cancer: The Evidence
www.info.cancerresearchuk.org/healthyliving/alcohol/howdoweknow/
- Cancer Council NSW, Alcohol and Cancer
www.cancercouncil.com.au/editorial.asp?pageid=1775
- International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
www.iarc.fr/
- IARC, Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages and Ethyl Carbamate, Monograph No. 96
www.apps.who.int/bookorders/anglais/detart1.jsp?sesslan=1&codlan=1&codcol=72&codcch=96