



## CNA HealthPro

### FAQs – Drug Interactions

**Q.** I've heard that some over-the-counter allergy remedies can react with common dental anesthetics and antibiotic drugs. How can I protect my patients against harmful drug interactions?

**A.** Many common OTC medications do interact with certain dental drugs. For instance, some antihistamines can cause central nervous system depression, which makes them incompatible with general anesthesia.

It's very important to ask patients what drugs they're taking, including non-prescription medications. Also ask about dietary supplements. Many patients assume that because a medication or supplement is available over the counter, it must be harmless and isn't worth mentioning. When taking and updating medical histories, ask patients specifically whether they're taking any cold, allergy or asthma medications, explaining to them the possibility of drug interaction. Always document your questions and the patients' responses, and fully investigate potential interactions.

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