

SPHERE Bladder and Bowel Service

The Impact of Medication on the Bladder

Drug	Effect	Impact on Bladder
Diuretics	Increase urine volume	Frequency, urgency, urge incontinence
Sedatives	Over sedation, confusion, impair bladder contractility	Nocturnal Enuresis
Anticholinergics	Decreases bladder contractility, confusion	Incomplete bladder emptying / reflex incontinence
Opioids	Reduced bladder sensation, constipation	Incomplete bladder emptying, overflow incontinence
Skeletal muscle relaxants	Decreases bladder contractility, over sedation, reduced sphincter resistance	Incomplete bladder emptying, stress urinary incontinence
Calcium antagonists	Decreases bladder contractility, constipation	Incomplete bladder emptying
Tricyclic antidepressants	Decreases bladder contractility	Incomplete bladder emptying
Angiotensin-converting enzymes inhibitors	Diuresis, cough with relaxation of the pelvic floor	Stress urinary incontinence
Alpha adrenergic agents	Increases sphincter resistance	Incomplete bladder emptying
Theophyllin	Reduces bladder contractility	Incomplete bladder emptying
Levodopa	Reduces bladder contractility	Incomplete bladder emptying
Phenothiazines	Reduces bladder contractility	Incomplete bladder emptying
Phenytoin	Confusion, sedation, reduces bladder contractility	Incomplete bladder emptying, reflex incontinence