Alcohol use during and after cancer treatment

It is not clear whether alcohol use after cancer treatment might increase the risk of cancers recurring.

In theory, it is possible that alcohol use might raise the risk of recurrence, but there is no strong evidence to support this.

In people who have already been diagnosed with cancer, alcohol intake could also affect the risk of developing a new cancer.

There are some cases during cancer treatment in which alcohol should be avoided—for example, even in small amounts, alcohol can irritate mouth sores caused by some cancer treatments.

Alcohol can also interact with some drugs used during cancer treatment, which might increase the risk of harmful side effects.

For people who have completed cancer treatment, cancer recurrence risk is largely unknown—factors that are important to discuss with your doctor are...

1. The type of cancer
2. Your risk of recurrence
3. Your treatment
4. Your overall health
5. Other possible risks and benefits of drinking

All information used was found at www.cancer.org