

## MedicinesComplete Case Study No. 9

This case study demonstrates a search of Stockley's Drug Interactions. It considers the use of the search box and the difference between use of the "interactions" button and the "search" button. This case study involves a proprietary (trade) name for a medicine (Flagyl) which highlights the role of the thesaurus.

Scenario: A prescriber requests information on a possible interaction between Flagyl and alcohol.

### 1. Select **Stockley's Drug Interactions** on the MedicinesComplete home page.

MedicinesComplete: Drug and Healthcare Reference - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by The Royal Pharmaceutical Society

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2. To look for more than one term enter the terms **flagyl alcohol** into the search box (separated by a space). The search is not case sensitive so it does not matter whether you enter your search in capitals or lower case letters. Click on the “interactions” button (or press Enter) to test for interactant pairs and retrieve documents for interactions between them.

Stockley's Drug Interactions - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by The Royal Pharmaceutical Society

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## Stockley's Drug Interactions

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### Published by the Pharmaceutical Press

*Stockley's Drug Interactions* provides the healthcare professional with quick and easy access to clinically relevant, evaluated, and evidence-based information on interactions between therapeutic drugs, proprietary medicines, herbal medicines, foods, drinks, pesticides and drugs of abuse.

Based upon the many thousands of published clinical papers and reports, *Stockley's Drug Interactions* provides a series of detailed yet concise monographs designed for quick and easy reference. Each monograph typically contains a summary, and sections covering clinical evidence, mechanism, clinical importance, and management.

Interactions monographs are assembled alphabetically into 34 sections, grouped by therapeutic use or pharmacological activity.

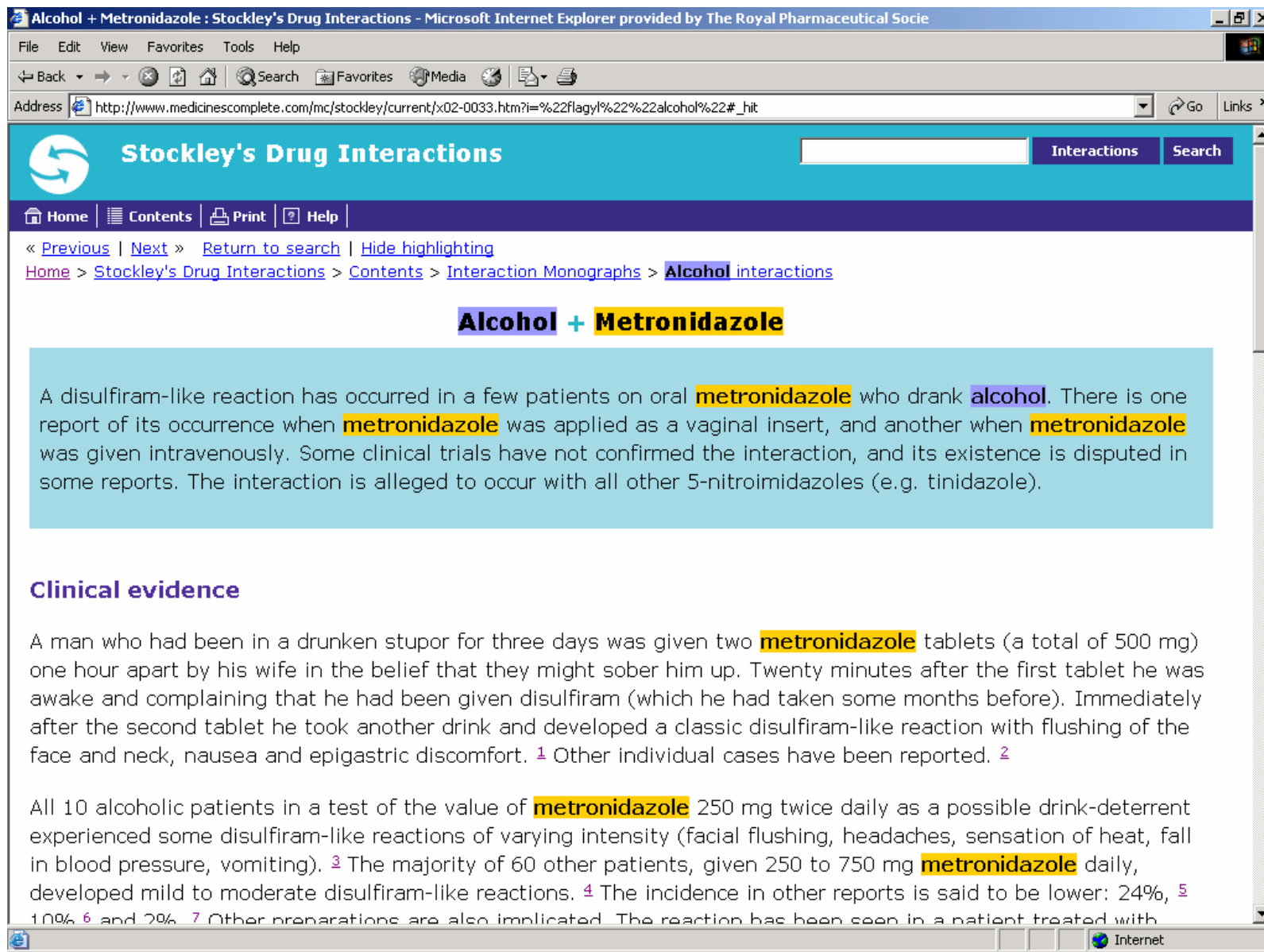
- Over 14,000 drug interactions in 2,800 monographs

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3. A thesaurus allowed the use of the term Flagyl since it recognises that this is the proprietary (trade) name for the ingredient metronidazole. The search results display shows how the search has been handled. There is one document listing interactions between pairs of interactants searched. Click on **alcohol + metronidazole** to display the complete document.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the 'Stockley's Drug Interactions' website. The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/stockley/current/search.htm?n=50&i=flagyl+alcohol&interactionsButton=Interactions>. The page title is 'Stockley's Drug Interactions: Interactions search: flagylalcohol'. The search input field contains 'flagyl alcohol' and the 'Interactions' button is highlighted. The page content includes a breadcrumb trail: [Home](#) > [Stockley's Drug Interactions](#). The main heading is 'Interactions Search Results'. Below this, it states: 'Find interactions between **Flagyl** and **alcohol**.' The search terms are listed as 'Flagyl [Proprietary]' and 'alcohol'. A paragraph explains: 'The term **Flagyl** is listed as a tradename. The search results are for the active ingredients.' An 'Interaction search' summary states: 'there is 1 document listing interactions between pairs of interactants searched.' A link for '[Alcohol + Metronidazole](#)' is provided. The text below the link reads: 'A disulfiram-like reaction has occurred in a few patients on oral metronidazole who drank alcohol. There is one report of its occurrence when metronidazole was applied as a vaginal insert, and another when metronidazole was given intravenously. Some clinical trials have not confirmed the interaction, and its existence is disputed in some reports. The interaction is alleged to occur with all other 5-nitroimidazoles (e.g. tinidazole).' At the bottom, there are links for '[Accessibility](#)' and '[Terms and Conditions](#)'. The browser status bar shows 'Done' and 'Internet'.

4. This document provides the information required to answer the question by describing how a disulfiram-like reaction can develop in patients on metronidazole who drink alcohol. It describes the published evidence and gives guidance on possible management. If you need to go back to the search results once in a record, use the browser “back” button.




Alcohol + Metronidazole : Stockley's Drug Interactions - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by The Royal Pharmaceutical Socie

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Address [http://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/stockley/current/x02-0033.htm?i=%22flagyl%22%22alcohol%22#\\_hit](http://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/stockley/current/x02-0033.htm?i=%22flagyl%22%22alcohol%22#_hit) Go Links

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## Alcohol + Metronidazole

A disulfiram-like reaction has occurred in a few patients on oral **metronidazole** who drank **alcohol**. There is one report of its occurrence when **metronidazole** was applied as a vaginal insert, and another when **metronidazole** was given intravenously. Some clinical trials have not confirmed the interaction, and its existence is disputed in some reports. The interaction is alleged to occur with all other 5-nitroimidazoles (e.g. tinidazole).

### Clinical evidence

A man who had been in a drunken stupor for three days was given two **metronidazole** tablets (a total of 500 mg) one hour apart by his wife in the belief that they might sober him up. Twenty minutes after the first tablet he was awake and complaining that he had been given disulfiram (which he had taken some months before). Immediately after the second tablet he took another drink and developed a classic disulfiram-like reaction with flushing of the face and neck, nausea and epigastric discomfort. <sup>1</sup> Other individual cases have been reported. <sup>2</sup>

All 10 alcoholic patients in a test of the value of **metronidazole** 250 mg twice daily as a possible drink-deterrent experienced some disulfiram-like reactions of varying intensity (facial flushing, headaches, sensation of heat, fall in blood pressure, vomiting). <sup>3</sup> The majority of 60 other patients, given 250 to 750 mg **metronidazole** daily, developed mild to moderate disulfiram-like reactions. <sup>4</sup> The incidence in other reports is said to be lower: 24%, <sup>5</sup> 10%, <sup>6</sup> and 2%. <sup>7</sup> Other preparations are also implicated. The reaction has been seen in a patient treated with

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5. Whichever search button you select, both interactions and text searches will be performed. The button selected determines which set of results is displayed first. In the above example the “interactions” button was selected so interactant pairs are displayed first. To see the results of the text search displayed, first enter search terms then click the “search” button. If you use the search button then a full text search will look for the exact terms input in the search box, i.e. flagyl alcohol, and the search results will show documents containing either (or both) terms. For most searches there is no need to use a special search operator in the search box (just separate terms with a space) but additional advice on “Advanced searching” appears in the Help screens.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The title bar reads "Text search for flagyl alcohol: Stockley's Drug Interactions - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by The Royal Pharmaceutical". The address bar contains the URL: <http://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/stockley/current/search.htm?n=50&i=flagyl+alcohol&searchButton=Search>. The website header features the "Stockley's Drug Interactions" logo and a search bar with "flagyl alcohol" entered. Two buttons, "Interactions" and "Search", are visible. Below the header is a navigation menu with "Home", "Contents", "Print", and "Help". The main content area shows the search results for "flagyl alcohol".

Home > [Stockley's Drug Interactions](#)

## Search Results

Find documents matching either **Flagyl** or **alcohol**.

**Text search:** there are matches in 163 documents.

Results 1 - 50 of 163, sorted with best match first.

[Alcohol + Metronidazole](#)

Interaction Monographs > Alcohol

**Clinical evidence:** The reaction has been seen in a patient treated with intravenous metronidazole and a trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (co-trimoxazole) preparation containing 10% **alcohol** as a diluent,<sup>8</sup> and has also been reported in association with metabolic acidosis in an intoxicated man 4 hours after being given intravenous metronidazole as prophylaxis following injury...**References:** 16. Fried R, Fried LW. The effect of **Flagyl** on xanthine oxidase and **alcohol** dehydrogenase. *Biochem Pharmacol* (1966) 15, 1890-4.

[Alcohol + Abacavir](#)

Interaction Monographs > Alcohol

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