



## **Alcohol and Digestive Cancers**

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Chronic alcohol consumption increase the risk for cancer of the organs of the upper digestive tract, but also the liver, the colon and the rectum An association is suspected in pancreatic cancer.

This risk is clear for the heavy drinkers , but still evaluated for the moderate alcoholic consumption.

The carcinogenic effect of alcohol is not clearly defined but the role of acetaldehyde ( the main toxic metabolite of ethanol) is observed in many animals studies.

Genetic polymorphisms including dysfunction of the enzymes involved in alcohol metabolism ( alcohol dehydrogenase, aldehyde dehydrogenase,...) may explain the difficulties of such assessment and the variability between countries around the world.

Others toxic factors such as tobacco are strongly synergetic to alcohol for the development of cancers.

The main message is and should be avoid smoking and drink with moderation.