The Progressive Symptoms of Alcoholism

Early

Tolerance often develops very fast, many start with a high tolerance

Many early stage alcoholics experience very high energy on alcohol. Pain medication will have reduced effectiveness.

High tolerance is .15 BAL and still be able to function

Ability to learn and heal *emotionally* stops

Middle

Loss of control and alibis start

Toxicity noticed as flu like symptoms & causing brain changes listed below

Depression and suspiciousness develop due brain cell damage and brain chemistry changes

Reduced ability for insight

Blackouts can occur anytime toxicity is high

Patterns of use change such as periodic, turn to uppers or Rx drugs

Periods of euphoric recall

Late

Ability to heal physically is impaired

DUI risk high

Periods of grandiosity alternated by severe depression and/or suicidal thinking

Muscle atrophy, muscle pains, joint pain and tremors. Hallucinations, delerium tremens, fever, loss of appetite, erratic sleep and seizures. Significant physical and mental deterioration has taken place by this stage of the illness.

Small amounts of drugs or alcohol cause serious health problems

Wernicke - Korsakoff Syndrome, dementia, psychosis possible.

Amount of drug to become toxic decreases

Amount of drug to get results increases

http://alcoholismanswers.net/Forms.aspx

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