

# Drug induced liver injury (DILI)

If you are taking a medicine for any condition and it causes damage to your liver, this is called Drug Induced Liver Injury or DILI.

## Quick summary:

- Drug Induced Liver Injury (DILI) is a rare side effect of some medicines
- DILI symptoms range from nothing (asymptomatic) to very severe and are like the symptoms of other liver conditions
- DILI is usually diagnosed by ruling out other types of liver disease
- Most people recover from DILI, but it can take some time and may involve changing or stopping medication
- Always read the information about side effects that comes with your medicine and tell your doctor about anything that causes you problems
- **Always talk to your doctor before stopping or changing prescription medicines**

## What causes drug induced liver injury?

DILI is a rare side effect of medicines.

Your liver will normally break down any medicines you take, but sometimes this process can go wrong and the medicine damages your liver.

It is usually impossible to predict who will get DILI and which medicines will cause it.

DILI can be caused by prescription medicines and also by "over the counter", alternative, complementary, natural and traditional Chinese medicines.



Liver UK is the new name  
for the British Liver Trust  
and Children's Liver  
Disease Foundation

[www.liveruk.org](http://www.liveruk.org)  
email: [info@liveruk.org](mailto:info@liveruk.org)

Registered Charity England and  
Wales 298858, Scotland SC042140

## Tests for DILI

There is no specific test for DILI. Doctors will usually start by ruling out other problems, including other liver conditions.

You should have blood tests and an ultrasound scan to look at your liver. Depending on your symptoms you might also have other tests. We have more information about tests on our website and you can ask your doctor to explain which tests you need and why.

## Treatment for DILI

Most people will get better without out any treatment once they stop taking the medicine that has caused DILI.

**Always talk to your doctor before stopping or changing prescription medicine.**

If DILI has already damaged your liver you might need treatment to help with the symptoms of liver damage.

## Recovering from drug induced liver injury

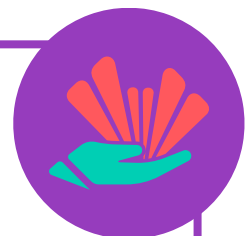
Your liver has an amazing ability to repair itself and most people make a full recovery from DILI. But the repair process takes time and can make you feel tired and unwell. This is a normal part of recovering but it can be hard.

**Always speak to you doctor if you are concerned or start to feel worse.**

### How we can help

The Liver UK support team are here for you and for your family and friends. Find out more more at **[liveruk.org/support](https://liveruk.org/support)**

Call our nurse-led helpline to talk to one of our team: **0800 652 7330**



For more information about DILI and links to support visit **[liveruk.org/dili](https://liveruk.org/dili)** or scan the QR code.

