

# Certain psychiatric drugs linked with elevated pneumonia risk

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A review of published studies indicates that use of benzodiazepines and benzodiazepine related drugs (BZRDs), which are prescribed to treat various psychiatric diseases, may increase the risk of pneumonia.

The *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* analysis included 12 reports related to 10 studies involving more than 120,000 pneumonia cases. After pooling the [estimates](#), the odds for developing pneumonia were 1.25-fold higher in BZRD users compared with individuals who had not taken BZRDs.

There was an increased risk of pneumonia among current and recent users, but not past users.

**More information:** *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, [DOI: 10.1002/gps.5048](#)

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