



# Alcoholism and HIV Might Affect Short-Term Memory

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A new study has found that HIV infection and chronic drinking can cause problems with short-term episodic memory, HealthDay News reports.

According to a study that appears in an online version of *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, more than half of HIV-positive clinic patients were also heavy drinkers. While the patients' long-term memory seemed unaffected, they did appear to have more problems with their short-term memory, which is associated with the ability to learn new information.

Sara Jo Nixon, PhD, a professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of Florida at Gainesville, said that the inability to learn might affect various aspects of an HIV-positive person's life, such as adhering to medication routines.

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<http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/alcohol-hiv-memory-16987-2581>