**Drug Risks: A Complex Web Of Interactions**

**A NOTE ABOUT THESE MEDICATIONS**
Many of the adverse drug interactions shown here have been demonstrated scientifically; a few have been reported only clinically. If you are concerned about medications you are taking and their potential interactions, consult your personal physician.

**HOW TO READ THIS DIAGRAM**
Follow the gray lines and text linking drugs to see what potentially can go wrong when they are taken together. Risks generally increase with higher doses and longer-term use, or overuse.

**Pain relief drugs**
- **PRESCRIPTION OPATIES**
  - Morphine, Hydrocodone, other opiate narcotic drugs (Vicodin, Codeine, Percodol, Percocet, OxyContin)

**ANTACIDS**
- Including Tylenol and Panadol

**Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)**
- Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), Naproxen (Naprosyn, Aleve)

**Cholesterol-lowering drugs**
- **CHOLESTYRAMINE**
  - Absorbs cholesterol in small intestine
  - Can potentially lower synethol effects.

**STATINS**
- Those drugs block cholesterol production in the liver:
  - Atorvastatin calcium (Lipitor)
  - Pravastatin (Pravachol)
  - Rosuvastatin (Crestor)

**Statin treatment**
- Can lead to excessive internal or external bleeding.

**Anti-fungal drugs**
- Can reduce levels of antifungal drugs.

**Blood-pressure-lowering drugs**
- **BENZODIAZEPINES**
  - For anxiety and tranquilizer medications like Valium, Xanax, Ativan

**Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)**
- Antidepressants like Prozac, Paxil, Zoloft and newer drugs that contain combinations of SSRIs with other anti-depressant medications, like Effexor

**LITHIUM**
- For bipolar disorders

**Blood-thinners**
- **NSAIDs**
  - Naproxen (Naprosyn, Aleve)
  - Can potentially lower blood levels of lithium and need to be carefully monitored.

Sources: Physicians' Desk Reference, 2006 Edition; Dr. John R. Horn, University of Washington