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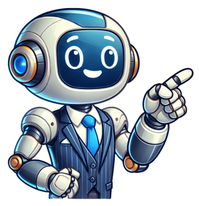

Does hair dye affect drug test for zanax

While categorising drug users into low, medium, and high groups based on hair analysis can provide a general estimate of usage patterns, it is not foolproof. To improve reliability, hair testing results should be interpreted alongside:Contextual information, such as self-reports and medical records.A thorough understanding of individual and environmental factors, including metabolism, hair pigmentation, and cosmetic treatments such as dyeing, bleaching, or straightening.Additional confirmatory testing, such as segmental hair analysis or alternative biological samples (e.g., urine or blood).This comprehensive approach ensures more accurate and defensible conclusions about an individual’s drug use.The following guide provides a general framework for interpreting detected drug levels. While helpful as an approximation, it should not be considered definitive. Accurate interpretation requires careful evaluation of multiple factors by a qualified forensic toxicologist.For detailed insights or a written interpretation report, our forensic toxicologist is available to assist. This specialised service provides a thorough and precise evaluation of your test results. Please note that additional fees apply. User TypeHeroin (Opiates) Levels in Hair DescriptionInfrequent User< 200 pg/mgOccasional or incidental exposure; recreational use.Intermittent User200–3,000 pg/mgRegular but moderate use, typically associated with parties or weekend use.Chronic User> 3,000 pg/mgHeavy, frequent use; indicative of dependency or addiction. User TypeCocaine Levels in HairDescriptionInfrequent User< 500 pg/mgOccasional exposure, recreational use, or incidental contact.Intermittent User500–5,000 pg/mgRegular but moderate use, typically associated with weekend or party use.Chronic User> 5,000 pg/mgHeavy, frequent use; consistent with dependency or addiction. User TypeAmphetamine Levels in HairDescriptionInfrequent User< 200 pg/mgOccasional or rare use, recreational exposure.Intermittent User2,500–7,500 pg/mgRegular but moderate use, typically associated with parties or weekend use.Chronic User> 7,500 pg/mgHeavy, frequent use; indicative of habitual or dependent use. User TypeMDMA Levels in Hair DescriptionInfrequent User< 200 pg/mgOccasional or rare use, recreational exposure.Intermittent User2,500–7,500 pg/mgRegular but moderate use, typically associated with parties or weekend use.Chronic User> 7,500 pg/mgHeavy, frequent use; indicative of habitual or dependent use. User TypeKetamine Levels in HairDescriptionInfrequent User< 200 pg/mgOccasional or rare use, recreational exposure.Intermittent User200–2,000 pg/mgModerate, regular use, typically linked to recreational or party settings.Chronic User> 2,000 pg/mgHeavy, frequent use; indicative of habitual or dependent use. User TypeMarijuana Levels in Hair DescriptionInfrequent User< 1 pg/mgOccasional or rare use, recreational exposure.Intermittent User1–10 pg/mgModerate, regular use, typically associated with non-daily or social consumption.Chronic User> 10 pg/mgHeavy, frequent use; indicative of habitual or dependent use. User TypeSynthetic Cannabinoid Levels in HairDescriptionInfrequent User< 200 pg/mgOccasional or rare use, recreational exposure.Intermittent User200–2000 pg/mgModerate, regular use; associated with casual or non-daily consumption.Chronic User> 2000 pg/mgHeavy, frequent use; indicative of habitual or dependent use. User TypeCBD Levels in Hair DescriptionInfrequent User< 50 pg/mgOccasional use; typically linked to sporadic medicinal or recreational exposure.Intermittent User50–1,000 pg/mgModerate, regular use; often associated with non-daily therapeutic use.Chronic User> 1,000 pg/mgHeavy, frequent use; indicative of habitual or medicinal dependency. User TypeFentanyl Levels in Hair DescriptionInfrequent User< 10 pg/mgOccasional or rare use, including medical exposure (e.g., post-surgical).Intermittent User10–100 pg/mgModerate, regular use; often recreational or off-label.Chronic User> 100 pg/mgHeavy, frequent use; indicative of habitual or dependent use. User Type Oxycodone Levels in Hair Description Infrequent User < 100 pg/mg Occasional use; typically associated with short-term medical use or rare recreational exposure. Intermittent User 100–1,000 pg/mg Moderate, regular use; often associated with non-daily therapeutic or recreational use. Chronic User > 1,000 pg/mg Heavy, frequent use; indicative of dependency or long-term medical treatment. User TypeValium (Diazepam) Levels in Hair DescriptionInfrequent User< 200 pg/mgOccasional or rare use; recreational exposure or prescribed use.Intermittent User200–1,000 pg/mgModerate, regular use; may indicate non-daily therapeutic or recreational use.Chronic User> 1,000 pg/mgHeavy, frequent use; consistent with dependency or long-term therapeutic use. User TypeEtG (Alcohol) Levels in HairDescriptionAbstinent< 5 pg/mgNo significant alcohol use; may reflect incidental or environmental exposure.Social Drinker5–30 pg/mgModerate alcohol consumption, such as occasional social drinking.Excessive Drinker> 30 pg/mgHeavy or chronic alcohol use; indicative of high and frequent consumption. Today, there are tools and technologies that help assess the influence of drugs on the human body. One way to measure the effects of toxicological influences is through hair drug tests. The analysis of biological samples for the presence of toxins, such as hair drug tests, can be used in a variety of circumstances, such as in the court room. How Do Hair-Based Drug Tests Work? Hair drug tests use a small sample of hair to identify specific drugs that have been used by an individual. The test measures the drug molecules and their metabolites that have been produced by the drug within the human system. Trace amounts of the drugs metabolites are inserted into the hair follicle via the bloodstream. A drug test using a hair follicle can typically read drug use up to 90 days after consumption. This period varies depending on several factors including how long your hair grows. The area of the hair sample that taken from closest to the scalp, and the most recent 1.5 inches are tested. There are several drugs that can be tested using hair samples. These include cocaine, marijuana, opiates and ecstasy. The hair used for testing can be collected from various body or head locations, if the length and thickness are valid. There are a couple discussions on various influences on hair drug testing, namely bleaching and other chemical treatments. Bleached Hair Bleaching one’s hair does affect the metabolites found in the hair strand by removing between 40–80% of their presence. With several bleaching attempts, almost all drug metabolites can be removed from the hair. Bleaching one’s hair is possibly the only way to pass a hair follicle test. Although this is a way to pass a hair drug test, significant damage needs to be done to the cuticle and a single cosmetic bleach job will not do the trick. When one bleaches their hair, the strand becomes cracked and damaged, causing the metabolites to leach out of the hair. The effect of bleach is not as evident when applied to a cut hair sample. Dyed Hair, Chemical Straightening And Other Effects Just as there is concern for the influence of bleach on the drug concentration in a hair follicle, so is there concern for cosmetic treatment, albeit at a lower level. It is the strong base element of the products used for treatment that causes damage to the hair. It has been proven that drug content in hair that has undergone treatment is less than before. A consensus is that the more damaged the hair, the larger the difference in drug level concentration when the hair is tested before and after treatment. The effect of chemical straightener, also known as relaxer, has also been tested and proved to influence the drug concentration in hair. Other cosmetic treatments such as shampooing, permanent waving, dying, and bleaching are also known to affect the stability of different class drug concentrations. Due to the complications in drug testing and the effect that various treatments can have on the result of drug concentration, it is best to hire a professional when needing forensic toxicology. It is this expertise that can help juries understand complex scientific concepts within the boundaries of the correct procedures. Medications in your blood and urine samples When we think of drug testing for pre-employment screenings or other regulatory purposes, most of us think of illicit drugs like cocaine, heroin, and even marijuana. However, there are many prescription medications that can alter the results of your drug test or cause you to fail entirely, which can lead to devastating consequences in both your professional and personal life. One of the most commonly prescribed medications that may give you cause for concern is alprazolam, also known by the brand name Xanax. So, suppose you’re currently being prescribed Xanax or are considering asking your Doctor about this popular medication. In that case, there are a few important things you’ll need to keep in mind about the effects of this drug on a screening test. Alprazolam, or Xanax, is a benzodiazepine-type drug that is typically prescribed for short-term relief from a variety of mental health disorders. This medication can be delivered either as a Xanax pill or Xanax bar, depending on the dosage and frequency with which you’ll be taking your prescription. And while this Xanax has gained a significant reputation for its effectiveness, it’s also considered to be a highly addictive substance that can come with many serious side effects, which is why it’s recommended that you only use Xanax when you seriously need it. This can help you avoid becoming dependent on the medication and prevent you from failing a future drug test due to having Xanax in your system. Because Xanax works with the body’s central nervous system, it can provide rapid relief for a wide range of anxiety and panic-related symptoms. With that being said, Xanax only lasts for a short period of time, even in its extended-release form. That’s why it’s essential not to overuse this medication and to strictly adhere to your doctor’s suggestions. The most common uses for Xanax include… Xanax and other generic forms of alprazolam have become a top pick for treating severe symptoms of anxiety in adults, thanks to its potent ability to calm the nervous system and alleviate debilitating physical manifestations of stress like an elevated heart rate, shallow breathing, and trembling. Like anxiety disorders, panic attacks stem from a disruption in the body’s central nervous system, often triggered by an outside source. Since Xanax was designed to only be used in certain situations, many patients have found relief from recurring panic attacks by taking it on an “as needed” basis, along with other coping skills recommended by their doctor. Of course, anxiety and panic disorders aren’t the only conditions that may benefit from occasional Xanax usage. Because Xanax creates a relaxed sensation in the body, it can also be used to treat severe insomnia and other sleep disturbances. However, it is not recommended to use this drug every single night, since this can lead to dependency and create an increased tolerance to the medication. Another condition that can prevent you from getting a good night’s is restless leg syndrome, which directly relates to the nervous system and can create a “tingly” sensation in your lower limbs, making it difficult to fall asleep. That’s why Xanax has become more and more popular for treating occasional bouts of RLS, giving your body the extra boost of relaxation it needs to unwind. Due to its addictive nature, many people assume that Xanax is an opioid. But in fact, this drug belongs to a completely different category of medications known as benzodiazepines, which act as a depressant on the central nervous system and produce a sedative-like effect. However, that doesn’t make Xanax any less dangerous than other pain-relieving opioid medications. Alprazolam and other “benzos” share many of the same qualities that lead to opioid addiction, which is why it’s easy to confuse these two drug classifications. Certain medications will show up in a urine drug screen test The short answer is, yes. If you’re submitting for a standard drug screening, most tests are designed to detect anywhere from 5 to 10 common types of drugs that might be of concern to employers or law enforcement officials. Benzodiazepines are often among these drugs, along with… THC (Marijuana)CocaineOpioidsAmphetaminesMethamphetaminePCP (Phencyclidine) In terms of treatment, Xanax can provide relief from your symptoms for about 31 hours, or about a day and a half. If you’re taking an extended-release form of the drug, you may experience relief for as long as 5 days. But if you’re concerned about how long Xanax will last in the system for purposes of passing a drug test, you’ll need to look at what type of sample you’ll be providing to determine when you should stop taking your medication before testing. If you’re submitting a blood sample, Xanax will be present in your system within less than an hour of taking it. For some people, traces of Xanax may only last for the first 24 hours while they’re enjoying the effects. But in other cases, Xanax was detected in blood for up to 6 days after last being used. On average, Xanax can be detected in urine for between 5 to 7 days, with the most common length of time being 4 days. Even if you attempt to detox your system, this drug will still likely be present in a urine sample for nearly a week after your last dose. While not as common as blood or urine tests, hair samples are another means of drug testing that some organizations may choose to utilize. Typically, Xanax will not show up in a hair sample for at least 24 hours after being used. And yet, hair samples can detect the presence of Xanax for as long as 90 days, or 3 months, after the last dose, which can make it extremely difficult for anyone with an alprazolam prescription to pass a drug test. While Xanax and its other generic forms do have some important benefits for those struggling with anxiety, panic attacks, or sleep disorders, there are several problematic side effects that you should be aware of before trying this medication for yourself. The most common Xanax side effects include… Extreme drowsinessMemory challengesLow blood pressureStomach crampsDry mouthPoor coordinationSlurred speechReduced sex driveDecreased appetiteConstipation In more extreme cases where a Xanax addiction has formed, the patient may experience withdrawal symptoms like… HyperventilatingShaking or tremblingRestlessnessMuscle spasmsSeizuresSweatingPhantom aches and painsHallucinations and other psychosis-like symptoms If you experience any of these side effects, you should contact your doctor immediately to evaluate your treatment options. Despite being a commonly prescribed medication, Xanax can pose a significant risk to anyone taking a standard drug test. If you know that you’ll need to provide a testing sample in the near future, there are a few key steps you can ensure that your medications won’t cause you to have a negative test result… While many drug screenings include benzodiazepines, other types of drug testing may only require a standard 5-panel sample, which won’t detect Xanax. You should be sure to understand the type of sample you’re providing, as well as what drugs will be screened for before you ever submit for a test. If you’re worried that your Xanax usage may negatively impact your drug test, your doctor may be able to offer you safer, less risky alternatives to help you cope with your anxiety or insomnia symptoms. You should always talk to your doctor about any concerns that you have about your prescription medications. Many Xanax users suffer in silence, not realizing how this medication may be affecting their physical and emotional well-being. If you or someone you love has developed a Xanax addiction, you don’t have to fight it alone. Ask your doctor about local resources for combating addiction, so that you can start walking the road to recovery. At S&G Labs, we’re dedicated to providing the most accurate drug testing information for businesses of all sizes. Learn more about how our team goes above and beyond to get you the results you need today. When you receive your laboratory report it is important to understand that the following factors will have influenced the result. These should all be taken into consideration as part of an expert report ; Previous Drug Use – it can take up to 6 months for a heavy user of drugs to show a clean result in a hair drugs test, (even in a segmented hair drugs test) due to something called sleeping/resting hair. This is where up to 15% of the hair is in the penultimate hair growth phase. DNA Legal see many cases where clients may have stopped taking drugs in December and show positive in March. If the expert has not taken into account previous drug use and the report is concluding a positive result for current drugs use, it may well be that the hair is positive for drugs but from the time previously used. This can also be the case if a segmented test is done. Chemical Treatments And Hair Dyes – clients may choose to chemically treat their hair which can remove between 40 – 80% of the drugs from their hair during each chemical treatment (depending on the drug type) which opens up the hair shaft to possible passive contamination. If hair is bleached it may remove some drugs but allow other drugs to be absorbed by the hair. In addition hair dyes sometimes contain substances such as hemp and other products that can lead to potential false positive results. Hair Colour and Texture – there are published studies that show that drug metabolites attach to the melanin in hair. If you have two clients that take the same quantity of drugs a client with light blonde hair will most likely show a lower level of drug compared to one with dark brown hair. Controlled studies in the USA showed levels in blondes to be on average 3.1 compared to levels in african americans of 14.9 – for the same dose of the drug. Area of Hair Collection – the SoHT guidelines are based on collection of hair from the crown or nape of the head. If the client does not have hair in this location or another area of the head is tested then results can vary by up to 20% meaning a result could be 20% higher or lower than if taken from the correct area of the head. Hair Growth Rates – the average hair growth rate is 1cm per month, however this means that most people will not be average. The range can be from as little as 0.5cm per month up to 2cm per month. It is important to remember that reports that state a time period covering certain months are based on averages. A 3cm segment could cover as little as six weeks and as much as six months. Passive exposure and contamination - Not every drugs test is the same. Many firms test just a small number of metabolites for each drug group and some do not test any. This means it is very difficult to identify if the drugs have been consumed by the client or appear as a result of passive exposure. In general the more detailed the test and the larger the number of metabolites tested the more accurate the result. To further support this, DNA Legal carry out an extended wash process to ensure all traces of contamination are removed from the hair. As a unique service we even test the wash to determine the level of drugs found, once they are close to zero we know the result of the hair test is not due to contamination. This takes 3 times as long as just testing the hair and is not common practice in UK labs, but it is something we feel is essential to avoid false positive results. One of the popular drug screening methods is hair follicle drug testing. A hair drug test stands apart in its precision and length of cannabis and drug use detection. Whether you consider yourself a marijuana user with chronic or occasional drug exposure, a hair strand drug and alcohol test can catch up with you quickly. If you are looking for cheating suggestions to pass a hair drug test, the good news is there are some that work. To test negative, you’ll need to ensure that your hair is clean from drugs. So, how to remove metabolites from hair? Let us check out some ways to do so. Hair drug testing and fingernail testing are considered reliable at detecting even small drug concentrations. And unlike with a urine drug test, employees can’t easily swap hair samples. Regardless of your drug consumption habits, it’s normal to be anxious about hair test results. Luckily, some home remedies increase your chances of passing, though not all are reliable. Here are some of the most popular hair testing tricks. The best and easiest way to get negative hair test results is to use a hair follicle detox shampoo designed for this purpose. These products feature a unique formulation that allows you to pass a hair follicle drug test. Shampoo your hair 24 hours before your hair drug testing appointment. You may also be able to use it on a day of the actual hair follicle drug test, though it’s better to start cleansing three to ten days before your hair follicle test. Some marijuana users swear by lice treatments to trick a hair drug test. This type of shampoo is designed to remove lice from head hair. Among the most common options are Permethrin shampoos, containing levels of substances such as butylated hydroxytoluene, lanolin alcohols, glycerin, acids, and coconut oil. The problem is that potent chemicals in lice treatment shampoos irritate the scalp and may trigger adulteration flags, depending on the drug detection methodology. So, it’s best to stick with more reliable methods of passing a hair follicle drug test. One of the popular home remedies to pass a hair follicle drug test is bleaching hair and then re-dying it to the natural color. Like other methods, its results are not reliable, so one Internet user invented the Jerry G method, which incorporates hair detox shampoo and hydrogen peroxide, and other products. A pre-requisite to accomplishing this method is to stop using all THC substances for at least ten days before hair testing. However, many people successfully passed their hair follicle drug test as quickly as the next day. Bleached hair is then treated with hair dye containing ammonia that matches your natural hair color. Next, you need to cleanse hair with a detox shampoo to flush residual drug metabolites and reduce damage to the hair shaft, so it’s still suitable for hair follicle testing. According to some research, drug concentrations for substances such as cocaine are undetectable in hair samples after abstinence from drug use for about 90 days. The study results showed that cocaine metabolite levels in hair samples dropped significantly during the first three months after the last drug exposure. Afterward, a hair follicle drug test detected no further traces of cocaine in the hair shaft after 120 days. However, you won’t always know when a hair follicle drug test will be required. It’s also a gamble to hope hair follicle testing won’t detect anything in your hair samples just because 90 days have passed. False positives happen, so you may want to remove metabolites from hair instead. A hair follicle test can detect several drugs, both illicit and prescribed. The most common ones are examined using a 5-panel hair follicle drug test. As such, the following are detected: CocaineMarijuana (THC)Opiates (including codeine)Amphetamine/methamphetaminePCP/Phencyclidine Hair testing can be used to detect acid (LSD), but it’s not very common. Upon consumption of drugs, the body also starts to metabolize them. They quickly course through the body, with some of them reaching the hair follicles. The metabolites from drugs get absorbed in the shafts and roots of the hair. This means that head hair tips may also test positive for consumed drugs as hair grows. Bleaching hair may work, but not in all cases. The most reliable option is to use a detox shampoo as part of the Macujo method. Dying your hair alone won’t significantly affect hair follicle drug test results. Hair dye is mainly used by people trying to mask that their hair is bleached. Hair samples can still be collected from other parts of the body. Usually, a technician will collect a body hair sample if the person has a shaved or bald head. A wig will be of no help. Hair follicle test administrators will be able to determine if you are wearing a wig, and they’ll ask for a real human hair sample. Knowing how to remove drug metabolites from hair is crucial if you want to pass a hair follicle test. This type of test is not easy to pass, but with the help of the solutions and products mentioned above, you can flush metabolites from your hair. By Jade Huish, Reporting Scientist. It is well documented that the use of chemical hair treatments such as hair dye can damage hair, having the potential effect of reducing the concentration of any drugs, metabolites and alcohol markers present in the hair. As such, the use of chemical hair treatments can reduce low level ‘detected’ results to below the cut-off level and result in a ‘not detected’ result. At the time of sample collection, donors are asked to provide information about the use of any chemical treatments, such as dye, in addition to the date on which it was used. Also, every hair sample is visually inspected by trained laboratory technicians prior to analysis for evidence of dye lines. In addition, during the laboratory process sometimes the extract (solution) of the hair can become discoloured, if this occurs this can indicate that dye may be present. Notes are made by the laboratory technicians for any visible colour changes along the length of the hair and/or during the laboratory extraction process, this is then subsequently detailed in the expert report. Whilst it is ideal to analyse hair that has not been chemically treated, we understand that this is not always possible. We have undertaken analysis on thousands of hair samples over the years which have been chemically treated and have still shown ‘detected’ results above the reporting cut-off level. Therefore, it is still possible to obtain evidence of drug use / alcohol consumption in some cases. Any consideration as to whether the results in your case have been lowered will be detailed in your expert report. The use of products on the hair, such as hairspray, does not affect the results of hair drug testing. However, the use of products needs to be considered when interpreting the results of hair alcohol testing. This is because one of the two alcohol markers for the hair alcohol test, ethyl palmitate (EtPa), can be elevated using products containing ethanol (ethyl alcohol). The Society of Hair Testing (SoHT) states that either the alcohol marker ethyl glucuronide (EtG) or the alcohol marker ethyl palmitate (EtPa) can be used independently in the assessment of chronic excessive alcohol consumption. However, to obtain the most accurate interpretation it is advised to use them in combination. This is because EtPa can be artificially elevated when a donor uses products on the hair containing ethanol (ethyl alcohol), whereas the level of EtG would not be raised using such products. Therefore, in cases where products have been used it is possible for the EtPa result to be elevated above the cut-off level. However, our experts at Lextox will assess the hair alcohol marker test results in conjunction with the use of any products by the donor when interpreting the results. Therefore, as the use of hair treatments and products can affect the results in some cases, it is advisable for donors to refrain from using any treatments or products on their hair in the months prior to hair drug testing or hair alcohol testing. If you would like further information on how we can support you, please get in touch here. Jade has worked at Lextox since 2019 and has a BSc with Honours in Forensic Biology. She has worked in forensic laboratories since 2012 specialising in the analysis of forensic exhibits and the interpretation of analytical data from the examination of drugs of abuse. At Lextox she specialises in the examination of hair samples for drugs of abuse, metabolites and alcohol markers. Jade has also successfully completed training in ‘Courtroom Skills for the Expert Witness’ and has attended court to provide expert evidence during her career. In addition, Jade is a member of the Society of Hair Testing (SoHT). Published 27/02/24 – All information correct at time of publication