

The video starts with the video's title on screen, "STAND STEADI: Impact of Medication and Alcohol on Falls and Injuries". The HHS CDC logo is in the bottom right corner of the screen.

A subject matter expert appears on screen, and his title is at the bottom of the screen: "Roland Merchant, MD, MPH, ScD; Emergency Medicine Physician, Researcher, and Epidemiologist; Mt. Sinai Health System".

Roland Merchant: "The purpose of our study was to examine how frequently older adults who have fallen and evaluated in an emergency department had sedating medications and drugs or alcohol present in their system."

Text on screen: "We looked for: Ethanol (alcohol), Benzodiazepines, Opioids, Cannabinoids (Marijuana)"

Roland Merchant: "We examined their blood that was taken right as they came into the emergency department for these substances." While Roland Merchant is talking, stock photos appear, showing a healthcare provider drawing blood from an older adult in a clinical setting.

Roland Merchant: "We randomly sampled 300 older adults who presented to one of these trauma centers after a fall. They were being evaluated for a serious injury from these falls." While Roland Merchant is talking, there is text on screen: "Examined 300 patients from 7 different Level 1 Trauma Centers".

Text on screen: "Measuring Alcohol Involvement During an Emergency Room Visit"

Roland Merchant: "After having a fall, older adults may not always seek care. And if they do seek care, it could be a considerable time after the fall before they seek assistance. And when they present for care at either an emergency department, an urgent care center, or a primary care setting, they may only have what appears to be a minor injury. And in those cases, they're not generally tested for ethanol and other sedating drugs or medications."

While Roland Merchant is talking, stock photos appear. The first stock photo shows a healthcare provider talking with an older adult patient in a clinical setting. The second stock photo shows a person in gloves handling test tubes in a lab setting.

Roland Merchant: "And if they are tested, testing is performed for clinical purposes and so is limited and may not pick up or detect some of these medications and drugs that could be present in their system at the time of their fall."

Text on screen: "Substances Most Commonly Identified in Older Adults Treated for a Fall Injury"

Roland Merchant: "Among the 300 older adults evaluated in this sample, almost a third, 31%, had some substance detected. Meaning, either alcohol, benzodiazepines, opioids, or cannabinoids such as marijuana. The most frequently detected substance was opioids at 15%."

The other substances (alcohol, cannabinoids, and benzodiazepines) were detected between four and nine percent of the sample.”

Text on screen: “How Substances Present Differed Among Older Adults”

Roland Merchant: “There were differences detected among these 300 older adults, age 65 years old and older. Ethanol, cannabinoids, and opioids were present more often among 65- to 69-year-olds, whereas benzodiazepines were present more often among 80- to 84-year-olds. Ethanol and cannabinoids were present more often among males, whereas opioids were present more often among females. Benzodiazepines were found equally among females and males.”

Text on screen: “Key Takeaways”

Roland Merchant: “The key takeaway from this study of these older adults 65 years old and older who had a fall and were evaluated for a serious injury had either ethanol or a sedating drug or medication present, which likely contributed to their fall. This high proportion of those patients who had the substance involved indicates a need for evaluating for the substance at the time of their fall. While Roland Merchant is speaking, text on screen appears: “Key Takeaways. Either ethanol or a sedating medication was present which likely contributed to the fall. Screening for substances is needed when older adults come to an emergency department.”

Text on screen: “STAND STEADI”. The HHS CDC logo and the STEADI: Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries logo are in the bottom right corner.

Text on screen: “For information about STEADI and older adult fall prevention, visit www.cdc.gov/STEADI”. The HHS CDC logo and the STEADI: Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries logo are in the bottom right corner.