

# Delirium

(When things really do go bump in the night!)

## APM Resident Education Curriculum

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*The Organization for Consultation and Liaison Psychiatry*

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## **DSM-IV TR Criteria**

- Disturbance of consciousness
- A change in cognition or development of perceptual disturbance
  - Not accounted for by a dementia
- Disturbance develops over a short period of time and tends to fluctuate
- Caused by a general medical condition

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DSM diagnostic criteria for delirium

## DSM-IV TR Criteria

- Classification of delirium
  - Delirium due to a general medical condition
  - Substance induced delirium
  - Substance withdrawal delirium
  - Delirium due to multiple etiologies
  - Delirium not otherwise specified

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DSM divides delirium into a number of causes / etiologies for coding

## **Synonyms for Delirium**

- Acute confusional state
- Encephalopathy
- Acute brain failure
- ICU psychosis
- Altered mental status
- Acute reversible psychosis

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Delirium is found in the literature under a variety of names

## **Motoric Subtypes of Delirium**

- Hypoactive
  - Decreased activity
  - Lethargy
  - Apathy
- Hyperactive
  - Increased activity
  - Delusions
  - Hyperalert
- Mixed

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Motor subtypes may or may not be important

Hypoactive delirium is often missed and confused with depression by the referring team.

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