

HIV and AIDS Psychiatric Manifestations & Treatment Complications

APM Resident Education Curriculum

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Epidemiology

- Vulnerable populations
 - Individuals with substance use disorders
 - Individuals with chronic mental illness
- Psychological symptoms that predispose to HIV include
 - Low self-esteem
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Emotional dysregulation
 - Poor impulse control
 - Hostility

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Conditions which may impair insight into the consequences of one's actions could result in risky behavior that may lead to contraction of HIV.

Such conditions include mental illness, mental retardation, head injury and drug dependence and abuse.

Initial Diagnoses to Consider When Consulting on the HIV Patient in the General Medical Hospital

- Delirium, delirium, and delirium
 - HIV's direct effects on the brain
 - Polypharmacy
 - Immunocompromised state
- HIV-Associated Dementia
- Medical Comorbidity
- Primary Psychiatric Illness

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HIV patients are at greater risk of delirium because of HIV's direct effects on the brain, the need for polypharmacy, and the potential immunocompromised state.

Since many of the etiologies of delirium in HIV may be considered an emergency, it is best to think in terms of delirium before making any other diagnosis.

HIV Testing on the Consult Service

- Serologic testing should be performed for patients presenting with new-onset psychosis in patients with risk factors
- Acute onset of confusion, memory complaints, affective disturbances, bizarre behavior, abnormal posturing or medical illness should raise the suspicion for HIV testing

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HIV is probably under-suspected as a cause of psychosis and mental status change. It should be thought of in any population that is at risk for contracting HIV. In other words, screen for HIV in at risk factors.

Delirium in HIV/AIDS

- Clinical presentation is the same as in non-HIV-infected patients
- Estimates of mortality as high as 20% have been reported
- Multiple potential etiologies
 - Opportunist infections
 - Polypharmacy
 - Substance intoxication or withdrawal
 - HIV infection itself
 - Dehydration and electrolyte disturbances

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