

DELIRIUM

Common Risk Factors & Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with Delirium

Predisposing and/or Precipitating Factors

- ▲ Dementia
- ▲ Admission from hospital
- ▲ Unfamiliar environment and/or people
- ▲ Severity of illness
- ▲ Hearing and/or vision impairments
- ▲ Fear/anxiety
- ▲ Dehydration
- ▲ Poor nutrition
- ▲ Poorly controlled pain
- ▲ Constipation and/or fecal impaction
- ▲ Urinary retention
- ▲ Urinary tract infections
- ▲ Male gender
- ▲ Alcohol use
- ▲ History of depression
- ▲ Substance/medication intoxication and/or interaction
- ▲ Substance/medication withdrawal
- ▲ Psychoactive drug use
- ▲ Postoperative state/post-trauma, esp. hip fracture
- ▲ Sleep deprivation
- ▲ Fever
- ▲ Hypothermia
- ▲ Immobility
- ▲ Hypoxia/anoxia

Other Medical Conditions to Consider

Central Nervous System Disorders

Seizures
CNS lesions
Neurological degenerative disorders
Recent CVA

Cardiopulmonary Disorders

Myocardial infarction
Congestive heart failure
COPD
Upper respiratory infection
Severe hypertensive episode
Hypotension

Metabolic Disorders

Renal failure
Hepatic failure
Azotemia
Hypoglycemia
Thiamine deficiency
Hypothyroidism
Diabetes
Fluid & electrolyte imbalance
Acid-base imbalance