

Delirium

URL of this page: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/delirium.html>

Delirium is a condition which causes a confused mental state and changes in behavior. Besides falling in and out of consciousness, there may be problems with

- Attention and awareness
- Thinking and memory
- Emotion
- Muscle control
- Sleeping and waking

Causes of delirium include medications, poisoning, serious illnesses or infections, and severe pain. It can also be part of some mental illnesses or dementia. Delirium and dementia have similar symptoms, so it can be hard to tell them apart. They can also occur together.

Delirium tremens is a serious type of alcohol withdrawal syndrome. It usually happens to people who stop drinking after years of alcohol abuse.

People with delirium often, though not always, make a full recovery after their underlying illness is treated.

Start Here

- Delirium (PDQ) [<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/supportivecare/delirium/patient/>] **NIH** (National Cancer Institute)
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.cancer.gov/espanol/pdq/cuidados-medicos-apoyo/delirio/patient/>]
- JAMA Patient Page: Delirium [<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=186428>] (American Medical Association)

Overviews

- Delirium [<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/delirium/DS01064/METHOD=print>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Delirium [http://www.merckmanuals.com/home/print/brain_spinal_cord_and_nerve_disorders/delirium_and_dementia/delirium.html] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
- Delirium (Beyond the Basics) [<http://www.uptodate.com/contents/delirium-beyond-the-basics?view=print>] (UpToDate)

Disease Management

- Managing Delirium [http://www.hpna.org/pdf/teachingsheet_managingdelirium.pdf] (Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association) - PDF
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.hpna.org/PicView.aspx?ID=453>]

Health Check Tools

- Delirium [<http://www.freemd.com/delirium/visit-virtual-doctor.htm>] (DSHI Systems)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Delirium [<http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Delirium%22>] **NIH** (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Comparison of consecutive periods of 1-, 2-, and 3-year mortality... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23805603?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Pediatric delirium: monitoring and management in the pediatric intensive care... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23639666?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Postoperative delirium in the intensive care unit predicts worse outcomes... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23616958?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Delirium -- see more articles [[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=\(delirium\[majr\]+OR+alcohol+withdrawal+delirium\[majr\]\)+AND+english\[la\]+AND+humans\[mh\]+NOT+\(letter\[pt\]+OR+editorial\[pt\]+OR+case+reports\[pt\]\)+AND+%22last+1+Year%22\[edat\]&tool=MedlinePlus](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=(delirium[majr]+OR+alcohol+withdrawal+delirium[majr])+AND+english[la]+AND+humans[mh]+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt]+OR+case+reports[pt])+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat]&tool=MedlinePlus)]

Organizations

- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>] **NIH**
Also available in Spanish [<http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/>]

Seniors

- Delirium: Unique to Older Adults [<http://www.healthinaging.org/aging-and-health-a-to-z/topic:delirium/info:unique-to-older-adults/>] (AGS Foundation for Health in Aging)
- What to Ask: Delirium [<http://www.healthinaging.org/resources/resource:delirium-what-to-ask/>] (AGS Foundation for Health in Aging)

Patient Handouts

- Delirium [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000740.htm>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000740.htm>]
- Delirium tremens [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000766.htm>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/000766.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

- Delirium [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000740.htm>]
- Delirium tremens [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000766.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Dementia [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/dementia.html>]
- Mental Health [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mentalhealth.html>]
- Brain and Nerves [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/brainandnerves.html>]
- Mental Health and Behavior [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mentalhealthandbehavior.html>]

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