

How to distinguish delirium from dementia



| | Delirium | Lewy body dementia (DLB) | Alzheimer's disease (AD) |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Onset | Acute | Insidious | Insidious |
| Course | Fluctuating | Fluctuating (but not always), progressive | Progressive |
| Attention | Always inattentive | Periods of inattention | Attentive in early-to-moderate stages in the disease |
| Alertness / motor subtype | May be drowsy (hypoactive) or restless/agitated (hyperactive) | Usually drowsy (but may be restless/agitated) | Usually restless/agitated |
| Cognitive Testing | Impaired across all domains due to inattention or mainly in executive function | Impaired mainly in executive function and visuospatial domains early in disease | Impaired mainly in delayed recall early in the disease |

Objectives

Relationship between delirium and dementia

How to distinguish delirium from dementia

Practical approach to assessment

Treatment implications

Case studies

Approaches in the community

Senior friendly approach

Questions

J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry, 75 (3), 382-7 Mar 2004.; J Neuropsychiatry Clin Neurosci, 25 (2), E27-8 Spring 2013; Neurology 2017; 89 (1) July 04