

DSM 5 Criteria for Delirium

Diagnostic Criteria

- A. Disturbance in attention (i.e., reduced ability to direct, focus, sustain, and shift attention) and awareness (reduced orientation to the environment).
- B. The disturbance develops over a short period of time (usually hours to a few days), represents a change from baseline attention and awareness, and tends to fluctuate in severity during the course of a day.
- C. An additional disturbance in cognition (e.g., memory deficit, disorientation, language, visuospatial ability, or perception).
- D. The disturbances in Criteria A and C are not better explained by another preexisting, established, or evolving neurocognitive disorder and do not occur in the context of a severely reduced level of arousal, such as coma.
- E. There is evidence from the history, physical examination, or laboratory findings that the disturbance is a direct physiological consequence of another medical condition, substance intoxication or withdrawal (i.e., due to a drug of abuse or to a medication), or exposure to a toxin, or is due to multiple etiologies.

Specifiers

Specify the cause:

- Substance intoxication delirium: Criteria A and C predominate in the clinical picture and when they are sufficiently severe to warrant clinical attention
- Substance withdrawal delirium: Criteria A and C predominate in the clinical picture and when they are sufficiently severe to warrant clinical attention
- Medication-induced delirium: When criteria A and C arise as a side effect of a medication taken as prescribed.
- Delirium due to another medical condition: There is evidence from the history, physical examination, or laboratory findings that the disturbance is attributable to the physiological consequences of another medical condition.
- Delirium due to multiple etiologies: There is evidence from the history, physical examination, or laboratory findings that the delirium has more than one etiology (e.g., more than one etiological medical condition; another medical condition plus substance intoxication or medication side effect).

Specify the severity:

- Acute: Lasting a few hours or days
- Persistent: Lasting weeks or months

Specify whether hyperactive or hypoactive:

- Hyperactive: The individual has a hyperactive level of psychomotor activity that may be accompanied by mood lability, agitation, and/or refusal to cooperate with medical care.
- Hypoactive: The individual has a hypoactive level of psychomotor activity that may be accompanied by sluggishness and lethargy that approaches stupor.
- Hypoactive: The individual has a hypoactive level of psychomotor activity that may be accompanied by sluggishness and lethargy that approaches stupor.

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