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Psychiatry Sequence (PSY614)

Topic: **Delirium**

Faculty: Rachel Glick, M.D.

Recommended

Reading: Andreasen & Black, *Introductory Textbook of Psychiatry*, 3rd Edition, pp. 184-189

Lecture: Tuesday, October 28, 2008, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon

Learning Objectives:

After reviewing this material, the student should be able to:

- 1. Define delirium and list its clinical features.
- 2. Recognize the wide range of underlying medical causes of delirium.
- 3. Discuss the evaluation of delirium including a list of relevant laboratory tests.
- 4. Comment on the epidemiology of delirium.

- 5. Know the differential diagnosis of delirium and be able to compare and contrast delirium and dementia.
- 6. Know that the treatment of delirium involves identifying and treating the underlying cause as well as providing safety and support to the patient.
- 7. Identify delirium if given a clinical case report, highlighting those features of the case that suggest the diagnosis of delirium, listing potential underlying causes, and suggesting an initial work-up.

Sample Test Question:

Which population of patients is predisposed to delirium?

- A. Elective surgical patients
- B. Schizophrenic patients
- C. Bipolar patients
- D. Elderly patients
- E. Children

Answer: D