

Delirium Etiology Checklist (DEC)

This checklist accounts for multifactorial etiologies precipitating or causing delirium in a given patient by using a weighted approach for each of 13 categories. The relative importance all available information (history, examination, and tests) is based on the judgment of the clinician who best knows the patient and then rated in this summary table.

The DEC Worksheet captures more details about the conditions in order to organize the data before rating the categories in the table. Check each box in the category table according to their degree of contribution to the delirium (either definite, likely, possible etc).

For research use the small numbers for column categories and row labels to represent your ratings.

Category	¹ Definite Cause	² Likely Cause	³ Present and Possible Contributory	⁴ Present but Apparently not Contributory	⁵ Ruled Out/Not Present/Not Relevant
¹ Drug Intoxication					
² Drug Withdrawal					
³ Metabolic/Endocrine Disturbance					
⁴ Traumatic Brain Injury					
⁵ Seizures					
⁶ Infection (intracranial)					
⁷ Infection (systemic)					
⁸ Neoplasm (intracranial)					
⁹ Neoplasm (systemic)					
¹⁰ Cerebrovascular					
¹¹ Organ Insufficiency					
¹² Other CNS					
¹³ Other					

DELIRIUM ETIOLOGY CHECKLIST

Worksheet

Drug Intoxication

- 1 Alcohol 3 Opiate 5 Hallucinogenic 6 Prescribed drug _____
2 Sedative - hypnotic 4 Psychostimulant 7 Other _____
8 OTC _____

Drug Withdrawal

- 1 Alcohol 3 Prescribed drug _____
2 Sedative-hypnotic 4 Other drug _____

Metabolic/Endocrine Disturbance

- 1 Volume depletion 6 Uremia 12 Hypoalbuminemia 21 Hypomagnesiemia
2 Volume overload 7 Anemia 13 Hyperalbuminemia 22 Hypermagnesiemia
3 Acidosis 8 Avitaminosis _____ 14 Bilirubinemia 23 Hypophosphatemia
4 Alkalosis 9 Hypervitaminosis _____ 15 Hypocalcemia 24 Hypothyroidism
5 Hypoxia 10 Hypoglycemia 16 Hypercalcemia 25 Hyperthyroidism
11 Hyperglycemia 17 Hypokalemia 26 Hypoparathyroidism
18 Hyperkalemia 27 Hyperparathyroidism
19 Hyponatremia 28 Cushing's Syndrome
20 Hypernatremia 29 Addison's Disease
30 Other _____

Traumatic Brain Injury

Seizures

Intracranial Infection

- 1 Meningitis 3 Abscess 5 HIV
2 Encephalitis 4 Neurosyphilis 6 Other _____

Systemic Infection

- 1 Bacteremia 3 Fungal 5 Viral 7 Urinary
2 Sepsis 4 Protozoal 6 Respiratory 8 Other _____

Intracranial Neoplasm

- 1 Primary 2 Metastasis 3 Meningeal Carcinomatosis

Extracranial Neoplasm

- 1 Site of primary lesion _____ 2 Paraneoplastic Syndrome

Cerebrovascular Disorder

- 1 Transient Ischemic Attack 3 Stroke 5 Intraparenchymal hemorrhage
2 Subarachnoid Hemorrhage 4 Subdural Hemorrhage 6 Cerebral Vasculitis
5 Cerebral Edema 7 Other _____

Organ Insufficiency

- 1 Cardiac 3 Hepatic 5 Pancreatic
2 Pulmonary 4 Renal 6 Other _____

Other CNS

- 1 Parkinson's Disease 3 Multiple Sclerosis 5 Hydrocephalus
2 Huntington's Disease 4 Wilson's Disease 6 Other _____

Other Systemic

- 1 Heat stroke 3 Radiation 5 Immunosuppressed 7 Fractures
2 Hypothermia 4 Post-operative state 6 Other _____