



Delirium in Older Adults

Last Reviewed November 2019

Delirium in the Elderly <https://www.accp.com/docs/bookstore/psap/p7b07.sample02.pdf>

This chapter explains theories of the pathogenesis of delirium, provides information on how to assess a patient for risk factors and how to determine if the symptoms are drug related and apply the best available evidence to manage delirium. (OPEN ACCESS)

Delirium in the Elderly: A Review

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3282320/pdf/OMJ-D-08-00023.pdf>

This review summarizes the definition, diagnosis and management of delirium. (OPEN ACCESS)

Delirium in the Intensive Care Unit <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5316795/>

This article focuses on the epidemiology, assessment tools, pathophysiology, risk factors, and management of delirium in ICU patients. Nonpharmacological therapies are included. (OPEN ACCESS)

Delirium in Hospitalized Older Adults <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMcp1605501>

This article includes a case study, evidence supporting various strategies and a review of formal guidelines. (OPEN ACCESS)

Partial and No Recovery from Delirium in Older Hospitalized Adults: Frequency and Baseline Risk Factors <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26515438>

This study aimed to determine the frequency and baseline risk factors for partial and no recovery from delirium in older hospitalized adults. (OPEN ACCESS)

American Geriatrics Society Abstracted Clinical Practice Guideline for Postoperative Delirium in Older Adults

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5901697/pdf/nihms950846.pdf>

This abstracted set of recommendations presented here provides essential guidance both on the prevention of postoperative delirium in older patients at risk of delirium and on the treatment of older surgical patients with delirium, based on the 2014 American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Guideline. (OPEN ACCESS)

Delirium – A Framework to Improve Acute Care for Older Persons

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5849572/pdf/nihms947195.pdf>

This article provides a history of the development of the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) as a screening tool for delirium. The author discusses the multifactorial nature of delirium, how to prevent delirium and other important considerations. (OPEN ACCESS)

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Preventing Delirium: Should Non-Pharmacological, Multicomponent Interventions be Used? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Literature

<https://academic.oup.com/ageing/article/44/2/196/93749>

The investigators aimed to assess the efficacy of multicomponent interventions in preventing the incidence of delirium in the elderly. (OPEN ACCESS)

A Multicomponent Intervention to Prevent Delirium in Hospitalized Older Patients

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJM199903043400901>

This article describes a controlled clinical trial of a multicomponent strategy to reduce the number of risk factors for delirium with the goal of preventing delirium in hospitalized older patients. (OPEN ACCESS)

Prevention of Post-Operative Delirium in the Elderly Using Pharmacological Agents

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5038927/>

The purpose of this review was to critically analyze the current evidence on pharmacological prevention of post-operative delirium. (OPEN ACCESS)

Interventions for Preventing Delirium in Hospitalised Non-ICU Patients (Review)

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD005563.pub3/epdf/full>

This Cochrane review aimed to assess the effectiveness of interventions for preventing delirium in hospitalized non-Intensive Care Unit (ICU) patients. (OPEN ACCESS)

Delirium in an Adult Acute Hospital Population: Predictors, Prevalence and Detection

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/3/1/e001772>

This prevalence study sought to determine delirium prevalence across an acute care facility. (OPEN ACCESS)

Confusion Assessment Method: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Diagnostic Accuracy

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3788697/>

This article describes a study aimed at evaluating the diagnostic accuracy of the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) and the Confusion Assessment Method for the Intensive Care Unit (CAM-ICU). (OPEN ACCESS)

Evaluation of Delirium Screening Tools in Geriatric Medical Inpatients: A Diagnostic Test Accuracy Study

<https://academic.oup.com/ageing/article/45/6/832/2499224>

The aim of this study was to evaluate the test accuracy of five brief cognitive assessment tools for delirium diagnosis in routine clinical practice. (OPEN ACCESS)

Antipsychotic Medication for Prevention and Treatment of Delirium in Hospitalized Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4840067/pdf/nihms750834.pdf>

The investigators evaluated antipsychotic medications for preventing and treating delirium. (OPEN ACCESS)

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Incidence and Risk Factors of Postoperative Delirium in the Elderly Patients with Hip Fracture

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6063011/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6063011/>

This retrospective study aimed to investigate the incidence and related risk factors of delirium in elderly patients with hip fracture. (OPEN ACCESS)

Preoperative Cognitive Assessment of the Elderly Surgical Patient: A Call For Action

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3123886/>

The authors conducted this study to compare a construct of cognitive impairment adopted by anesthesiologists with one utilized by neurologists and share the clinical implications in this article. (OPEN ACCESS)

Room Transfers and the Risk of Delirium Incidence Amongst Hospitalized Elderly Medical Patients: A Case-Control Study

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4478641/>

The authors systematically examined the relationship between room transfers and delirium incidence through an exploratory analysis. (OPEN ACCESS)

Quality of Clinical Practice Guidelines in Delirium: A Systematic Appraisal

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/3/e013809>

This publication describes a literature review which sought to determine the accessibility and currency of delirium guidelines, guideline summary papers and evaluation studies, and critically appraised the quality of guidelines. (OPEN ACCESS)

Clinical Practice Guidelines for Delirium Management: Potential Application in Palliative Care

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4128754/>

This review aimed to source published delirium management guidelines with potential relevance to palliative care settings; to discuss the process of guideline development; appraise clinical utility and outline the process of implementation and evaluation. The authors make recommendations for future guideline development. (OPEN ACCESS)

A Holistic Approach to Delirium at the End of Life

<https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/a-holistic-approach-to-delirium-at-the-end-of-life-2165-7386-1000264.pdf>

The author proposes a framework to guide the management of delirium which includes consideration of the patient's burden of disease, goals of care, family concerns, social, cultural and religious sensitivities. (OPEN ACCESS)

Delirium and Agitation at the End of Life

<https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/353/bmj.i3085.full.pdf>

This clinical update provides information regarding the successful management of delirium at the end of life. (OPEN ACCESS)

Assessing and Managing Delirium in Older Adults with Dementia

<https://consultgeri.org/try-this/dementia/issue-d8.pdf>

This information sheet includes the Delirium Superimposed on Dementia Algorithm with an overview of the assessment tools strengths and limitations. (OPEN ACCESS)

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Adverse Outcomes After Hospitalization and Delirium in Persons with Alzheimer's Disease <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3556489/>

This article describes a study investigating the risks for institutionalization, cognitive decline or death with hospitalization and delirium in patients with Alzheimer's Disease. (OPEN ACCESS)

The Long-Term Effect of Delirium on the Cognitive Trajectory of Persons with Dementia <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3740440/>

The authors examined the effect of delirium on long-term cognitive trajectories in older adults with Alzheimer's disease and found that there was greater cognitive deterioration in those who had delirium than those who had not. (OPEN ACCESS)

The Diagnosis of Delirium Superimposed on Dementia: An Emerging Challenge <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5373084/>

This article discusses the challenge of neuropsychological assessment of delirium in patients with dementia and provides a framework for improving the diagnosis of delirium superimposed on dementia (DSD). (OPEN ACCESS)

Efficacy of Non-Pharmacological Interventions to Prevent and Treat Delirium in Older Patients: A Systematic Overview. The SENATOR Project ONTOP Series <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0123090&type=printable>

The authors aimed to provide clinicians of older patients a synthesized, methodologically sound resource to support decision making. (OPEN ACCESS)

Impact of Non-Pharmacological Interventions on Prevention and Treatment of Delirium in Critically ill Patients: Protocol for a Systematic Review of Quantitative and Qualitative Research <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4855765/>

This review aimed to identify effective non-pharmacological interventions for reducing the incidence and duration of delirium in critically ill patients. (OPEN ACCESS)

Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Managing Delirium in Hospitalised Patients <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD005995.pub2/epdf/full>

This Cochrane Review aimed to determine whether non-pharmacological interventions aimed at modification of delirium risk factors can attenuate established delirium. (OPEN ACCESS)

The Impact of Frailty and Delirium on Mortality in Older Inpatients <https://academic.oup.com/ageing/article/41/3/412/32110>

This prospective cohort study explored the relationship between delirium and frailty in older inpatients to determine the impact on survival. (OPEN ACCESS)

Association Between Frailty and Delirium in Older Adult Patients Discharged from Hospital <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4723030/>

This study aimed to explore the relationship between delirium and frailty in older adults discharged from hospital. The investigators used a multidimensional linear regression model for analysis. (OPEN ACCESS)