

Hyperactive Delirium

paranoia,
agitation and
aggression,
resistive to care
and may
experience
hallucinations

Hypoactive Delirium

Withdrawn,
sleepy, loss of
interest in food
/ drinks

What is Delirium?

Delirium is a term to describe an acute confusional state and a sign that something is wrong

Risk factors

Increasing age

Cognitive impairment / dementia

Impaired vision or hearing

Multiple comorbidities

Key points:

Delirium can fluctuate, changes occur suddenly
Person centred care – important
Be on the alert for causes of delirium
Delirium can take WEEKS or MONTHS to fully resolve
Risk of further episodes increase when unwell

Common Causes of delirium

Pain
Infection
Nutrition
Constipation
Hydration
Medications
Environment

Mixed Delirium

Fluctuating symptoms of both hyper and hypoactive delirium.