

Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)

Shortened version

The diagnosis of delirium by CAM requires the presence of BOTH features A and B		
CAM Confusion Assessment Method	A. Acute onset	Is there evidence of an acute change in mental status from patient baseline?
	and	Does the abnormal behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ come and go? ➢ fluctuate during the day? ➢ increase/decrease in severity?
	Fluctuating course	
	B. Inattention	Does the patient: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ have difficulty focusing attention? ➢ become easily distracted? ➢ have difficulty keeping track of what is said?
	AND the presence of EITHER feature C or D	
C. Disorganized thinking	Is the patient's thinking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ disorganized ➢ incoherent For example does the patient have <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ rambling speech/irrelevant conversation? ➢ unpredictable switching of subjects? ➢ unclear or illogical flow of ideas? 	
D. Altered level of consciousness	Overall, what is the patient's level of consciousness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ alert (normal) ➢ vigilant (hyper-alert) ➢ lethargic (drowsy but easily roused) ➢ stuporous (difficult to rouse) ➢ comatose (unrousable) 	

(Adapted with permission: Inouye, SK, et.al. (1990). Clarifying Confusion: The Confusion Assessment Method. A new method for detection of delirium. *Ann Intern Med*, 113: 941-8.)