

# DELIRIUM

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# DELIRIUM EXPERIENCE

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- Paul Wischmeyer, MD
- University of Duke
- Perioperative Physician



A person is shown falling from a balcony, their body in mid-air against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The person is upside down, with their arms and legs outstretched. The background is a clear, vibrant blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a dramatic and somewhat surreal depiction of a fall.

## DELIRIUM EXPERIENCE

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- I fell off from the balcony, in my hospital room, two floors, my body shattering on the floor into a little million pieces, all of which have labels on them, and I spent the next four hours putting my body back together. Piece by piece. I have a very vivid memory of that.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcA0piTXwoY>

# DEFINITION – DSM V

- Consciousness disturbances → Attention and Awareness Disturbances
- Inattention → Any disturbance of arousal that leaves the patient unable to perform cognitive tests, besides coma

# DEFINITION – DSM V



Disturbances in attention and awareness



Development over a short time and fluctuation in severity



An additional disturbance in cognition, e.g. a memory deficit or language impairment

An empty hospital room, likely an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). A hospital bed with white linens is the central focus. To the left, there are several medical monitors and control panels. In the background, there are blue curtains and various medical carts and equipment. The room is brightly lit, and the overall atmosphere is clinical and sterile.

In United States, there are  
some 5.7 million adult ICU  
admissions each year.

That equates to an average of 1.7 ICU admissions per lifetime.

Derek Angus - University of Pittsburgh

# DELIRIUM INCIDENCE

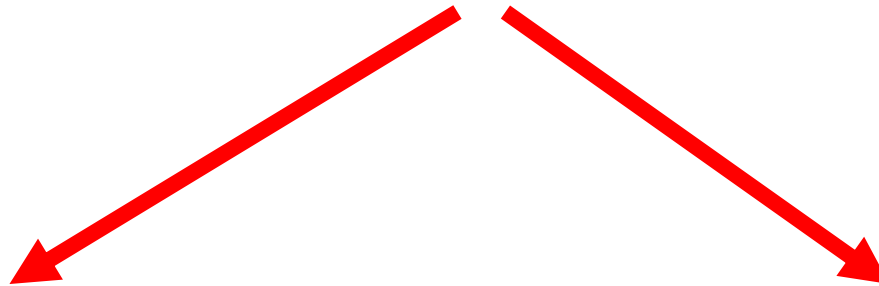


Non-intubated Patients in Critical Care



Elderly, mechanically ventilated patients

# Neuropsychological consequences of **SEPSIS**



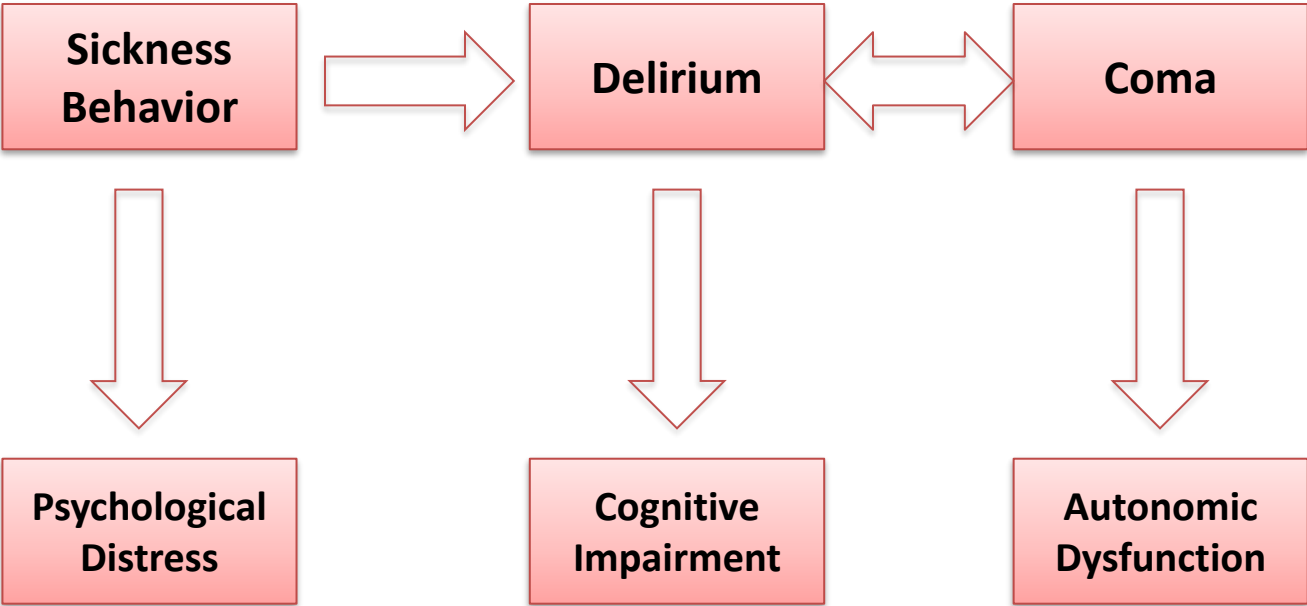
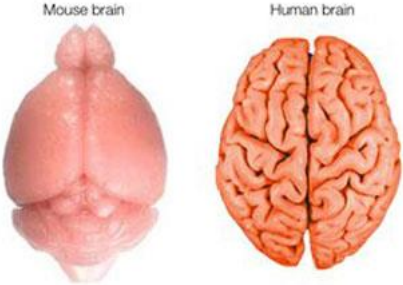
**Acute brain dysfunction** → **Long-term consequences**

**Stress/Anxiety**  
**Delirium**  
**Coma**

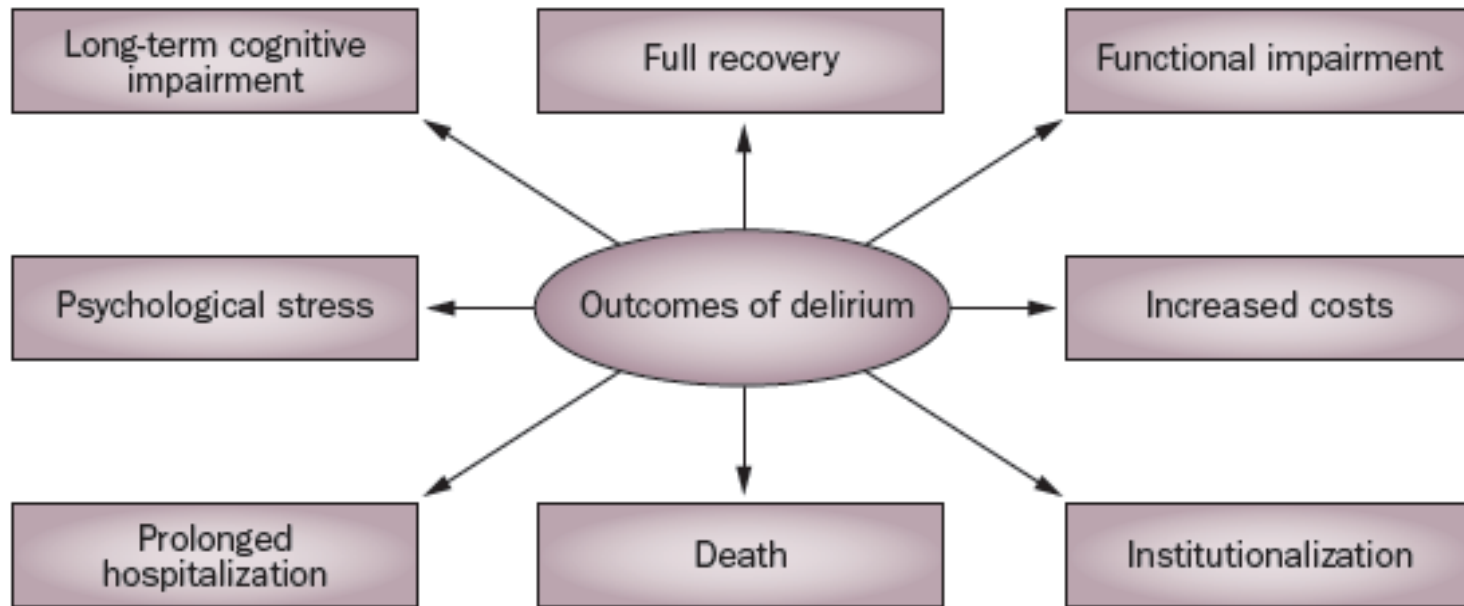
**Cognitive decline**  
**Psychological impairment**



# Brain Response to Systemic Inflammation

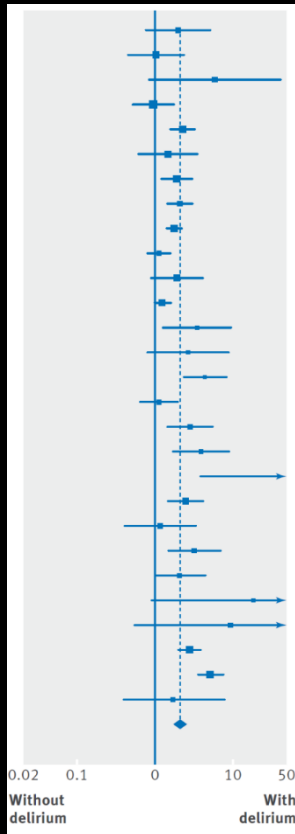


# CONSEQUÊNCIAS DELIRIUM

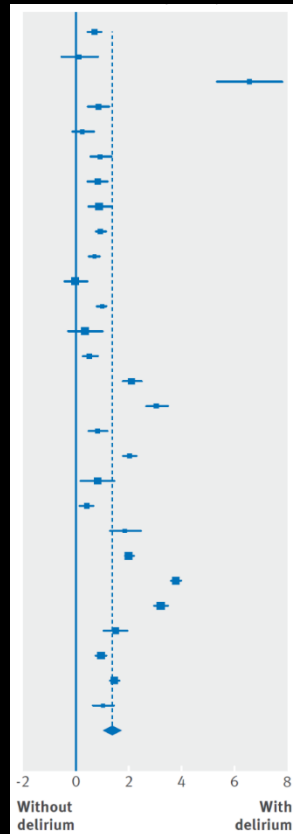


**Figure 2** | Outcomes of delirium.

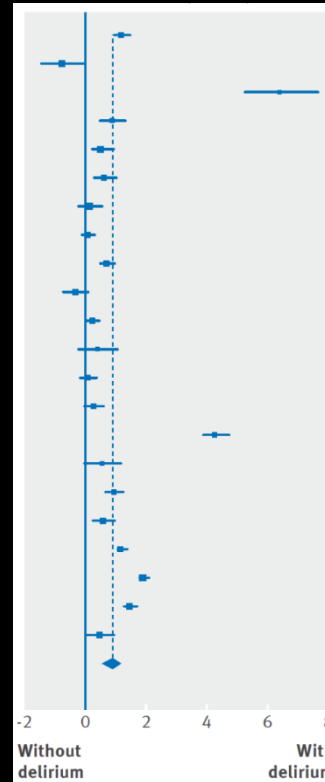
# Outcome of delirium in critically ill patients: systematic review and meta-analysis



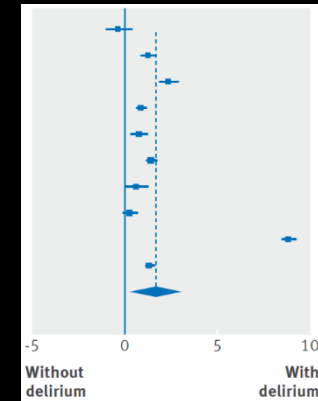
Mortality



ICU LOS



Hospital LOS



MV duration

## Delirium as a Predictor of Mortality in Mechanically Ventilated Patients in the Intensive Care Unit

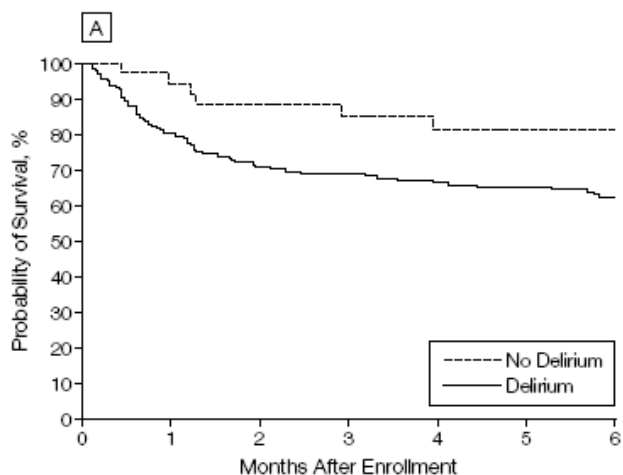
E. Wesley Ely; Ayumi Shintani; Brenda Truman; et al.

Online article and related content current as of July 26, 2009.

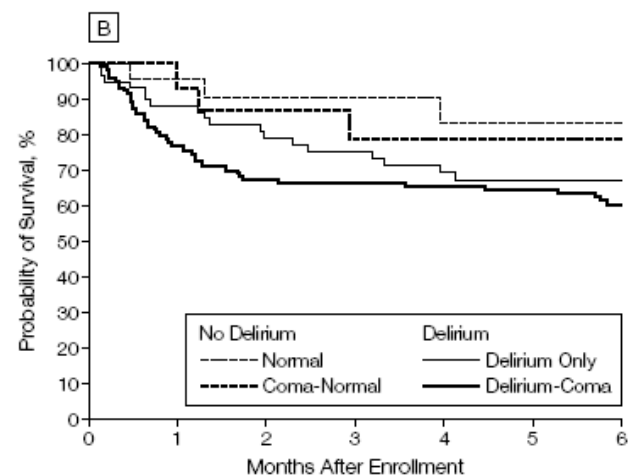
*JAMA*. 2004;291(14):1753-1762 (doi:10.1001/jama.291.14.1753)

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/291/14/1753>

**Figure 3.** Kaplan-Meier Analysis of Delirium in the Intensive Care Unit and 6-Month Survival

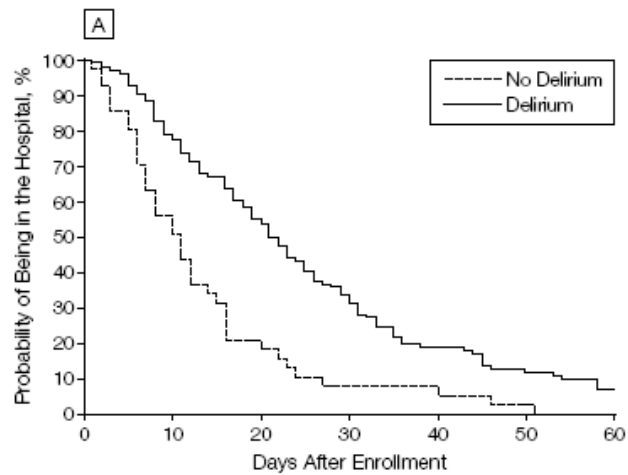


No. at Risk		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
No Delirium	41	34	28	25	22	21	19	
Delirium	183	138	116	111	104	98	88	

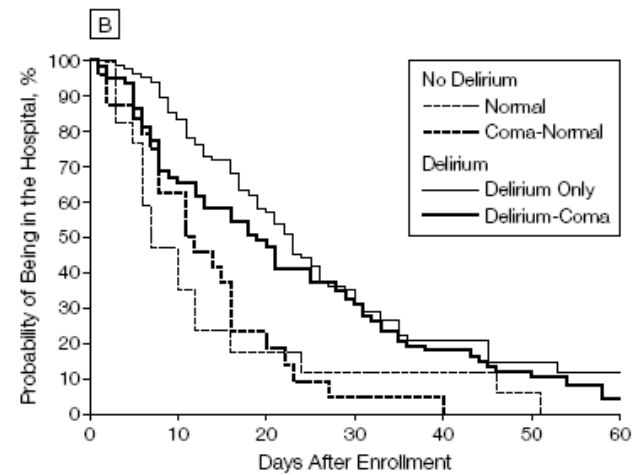


No. at Risk		0	1	2	3	4	5	6
No Delirium								
Normal	17	15	11	11	10	10	10	
Coma-Normal	24	19	17	15	12	11	9	
Delirium								
Delirium Only	60	51	42	39	34	33	29	
Delirium-Coma	123	87	74	72	70	65	59	

**Figure 4.** Kaplan-Meier Analysis of Delirium in the Intensive Care Unit and Hospital Length of Stay



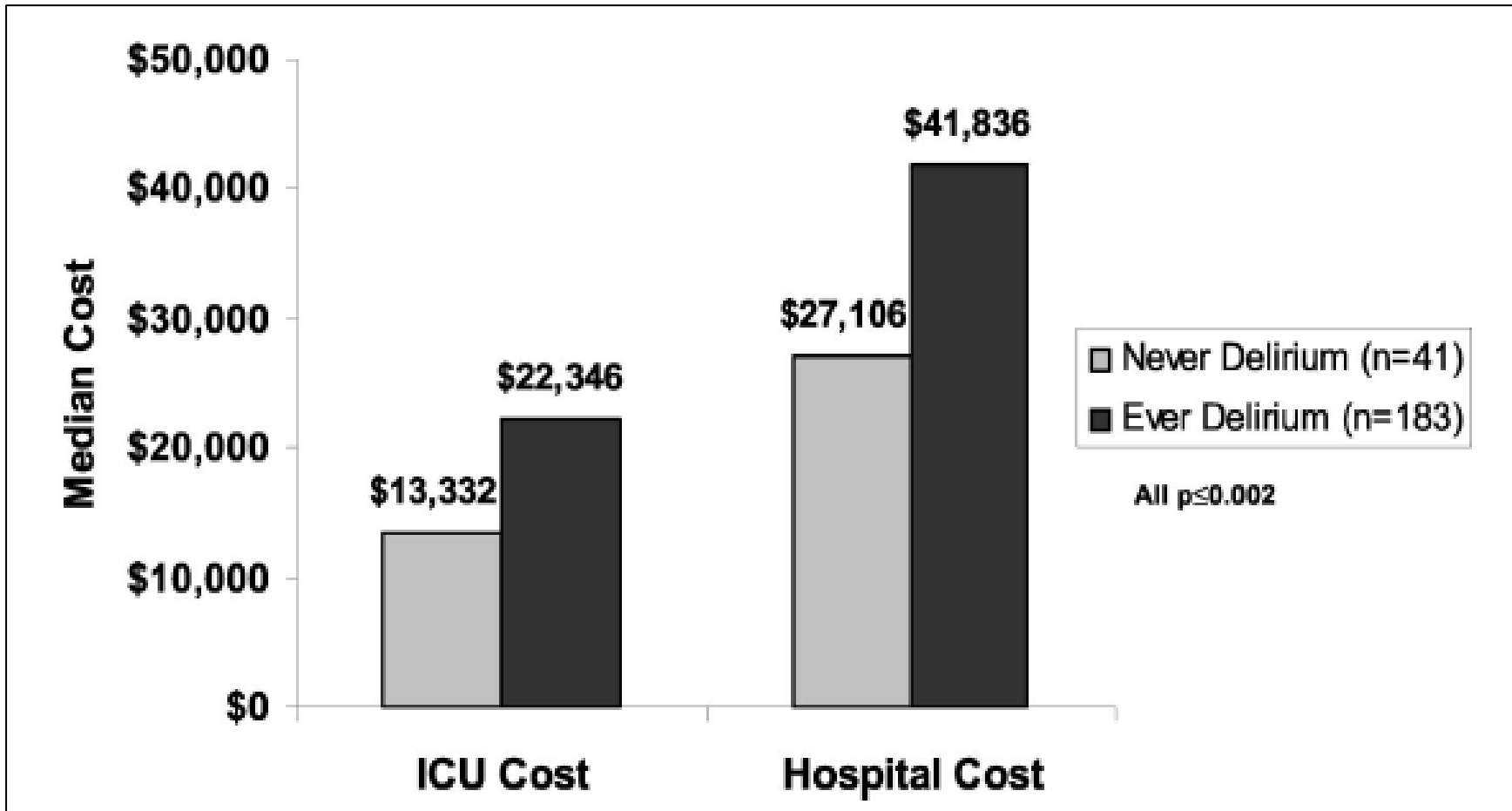
No. at Risk		0	10	20	30	40	50	60
No Delirium	41	23	8	3	3	1	0	
Delirium	183	137	82	43	20	13	4	



No. at Risk		0	10	20	30	40	50	60
No Delirium	17	8	3	2	2	1	0	
Coma-Normal	24	15	5	1	1	0	0	
Delirium								
Delirium Only	60	38	25	17	8	5	2	
Delirium-Coma	123	99	57	26	12	8	2	

# Costs associated with delirium in mechanically ventilated patients\*

Eric B. Milbrandt, MD, MPH; Stephen Deppen, MA, MS; Patricia L. Harrison, MPH;  
Ayumi K. Shintani, PhD, MPH; Theodore Speroff, PhD; Renée A. Stiles, PhD; Brenda Truman, RN, MSN;  
Gordon R. Bernard, MD; Robert S. Dittus, MD, MPH; E. Wesley Ely, MD, MPH



Marc-Jacques Dubois  
Nicolas Bergeron  
Marc Dumont  
Sandra Dial  
Yoanna Skrobik

## Delirium in an intensive care unit: a study of risk factors

**Table 4** Morbidity and mortality associated with the development of delirium (numbers in parenthesis represent percentage)

Event <sup>a</sup>	Delirious patients	Non-delirious patients	<i>p</i> value
Self-extubation	4 (10)	4 (2.3)	0.02
Removal of catheters	8 (20)	10 (5.7)	0.003
Mortality	6 (15)	24 (13.6)	0.82
Length of stay (days)	9.3 ± 12	7 ± 7.9	0.14

<sup>a</sup> Self-extubation, removal of catheters and mortality were calculated on 216 patients; length of stay was calculated on 209 patients



Loss of Independence

Hospice Care

DEATH

Functional Loss

*Alcorno*



### Improvement

#### In Short Term Outcomes of Critically Ill (eg. Sepsis, MV)

- Yende & Angus et al, Curr Infect Dis Rep. 2007 Sep;9(5):382-6..
- Esteban et al, Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2008

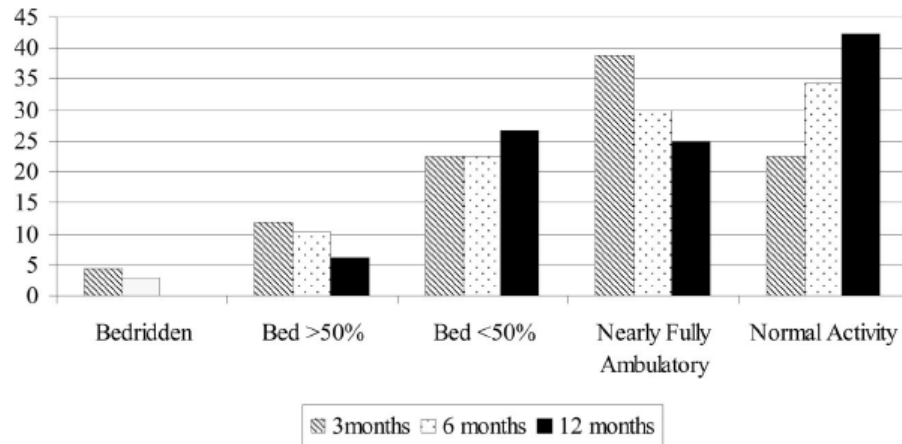
### Need for changes in endpoints (eg.90-day, hosp. mortality; 6 and 12mo outcomes)

- Rubenfeld et al Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 1999 Jul;160(1):358-67.
- Reade & Angus, Crit Care Med. 2009 Jan;37(1 Suppl):S1-9.

### New studies generated a “Picture of Survivors” with the evaluation of several domains (eg- Organ function recovery; QOL, social/employment insertion)

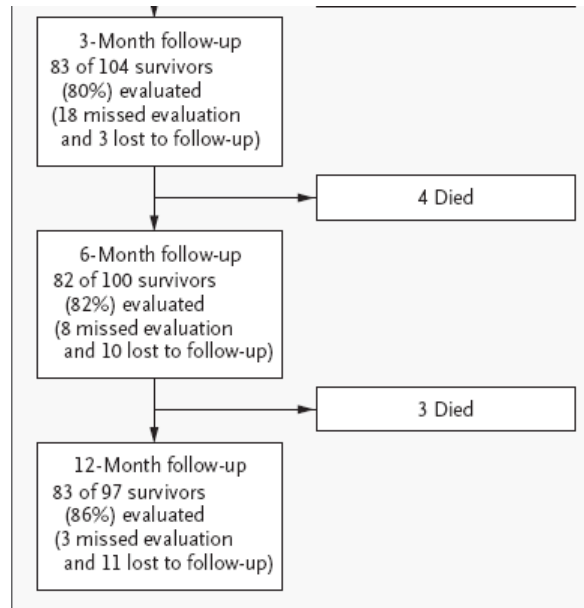
- Herridge et al, N Engl J Med. 2003 Feb 20;348(8):683-93.
- Azoulay et al, Chest. 2008 Feb;133(2):339-41.

Survivors of acute respiratory distress syndrome: Relationship between pulmonary dysfunction and long-term health-related quality of life\*





One-Year Outcomes in Survivors  
of the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome



Herridge et al, NEJM,(2003)



One-Year Outcomes in Survivors  
of the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

Outcome	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
Distance walked in 6 min			
No. evaluated	80*	78†	81‡
Median — m	281	396	422
Interquartile range — m	55–454	244–500	277–510
Percentage of predicted value§	49	64	66
Returned to work — no./total no. (%)¶	13/83 (16)	26/82 (32)	40/82 (49)
Returned to original work — no./total no. (%)	10/13 (77)	23/26 (88)	31/40 (78)

Despite improvements in lung function less than 50% returned to work

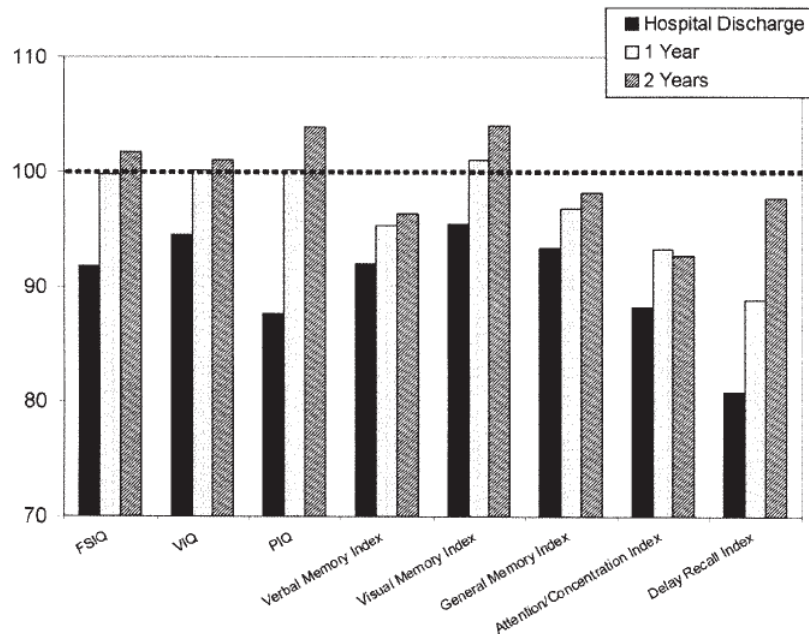
Herridge et al, NEJM,(2003)

Survivors of acute respiratory distress syndrome: Relationship between pulmonary dysfunction and long-term health-related quality of life\*

**Survivors of ARDS have considerable respiratory symptoms and reduced HRQOL that is still prevalent at 12 months following onset of injury.**

**There are correlations between lung spirometry, pulmonary symptoms, and overall HRQOL.**

## Two-Year Cognitive, Emotional, and Quality-of-Life Outcomes in Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome



Significant impairment in neurocognitive tests, visual and verbal memory, concentration and attention at 1 year


# Anecdote Sepsis Patient

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- 64y/o executive
- Previously Healthy
- Pneumonia and Sepsis
- On ventilator for 10 days
- Dense ICU delirium
- Lung, heart, kidneys recovered without complications
- Head CT and MRI normal, neuro exam non-focal
- Debilitating Executive Dysfunction Syndrome

Wesley Ely.



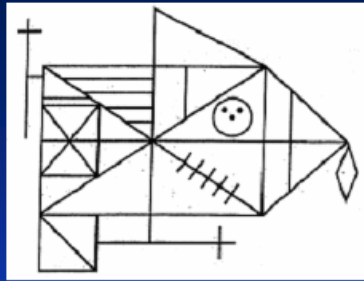


# Anecdote: Sepsis Patient – 1-year Follow-Up Letter

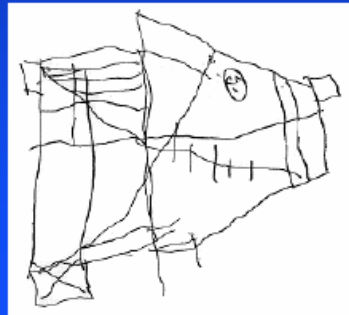
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- Dear Doctor, you remember my sister, who is a 64 y/o CEO with many employees. After she developed delirium, we couldn't seem to get her mental clouding cleared for quite some time. She has tried to get back to work, and driving, and functioning although she can not seem to fully bounce back.
- She seems to have lost her "spark"... She is very flat now, and have memory problems... She looks like a very elderly woman now. The illness really changed her.

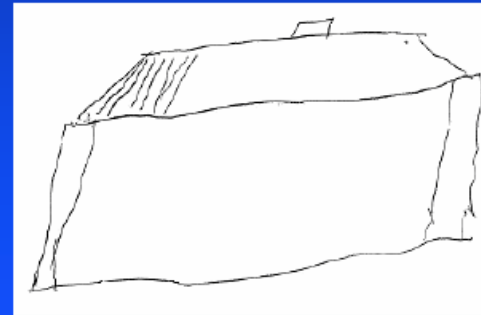




Immediate Copy



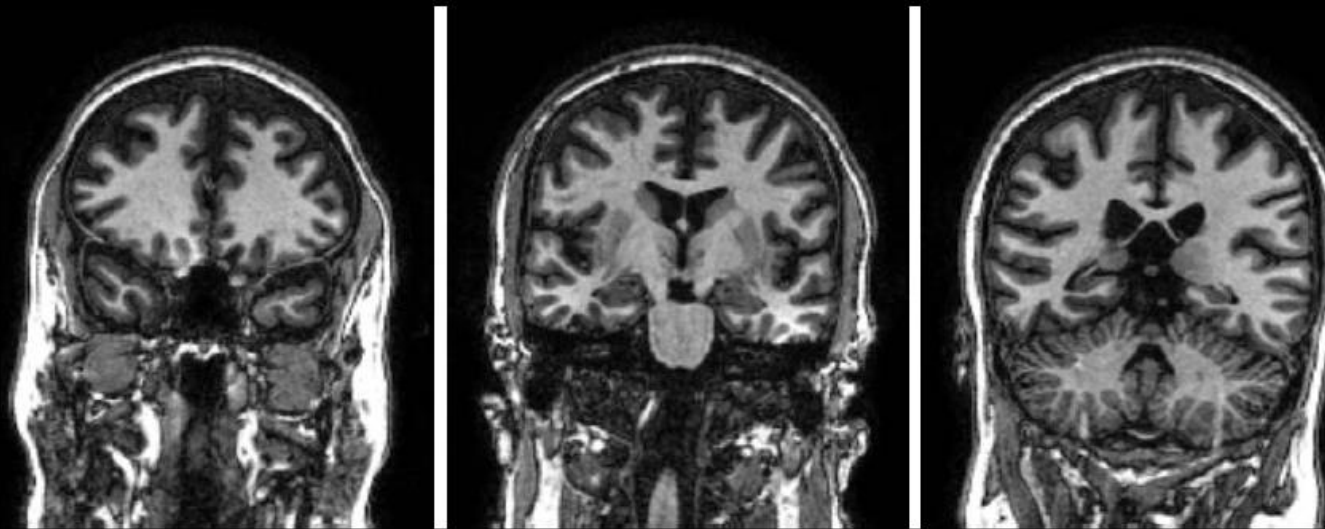
30 min later...



## The REY-O Copy Test

In ambulatory patient with  
no motor deficits or stroke

**Loss of Brain on MRI: Sepsis Patient at 2 years  
(had been normal at ICU discharge)**

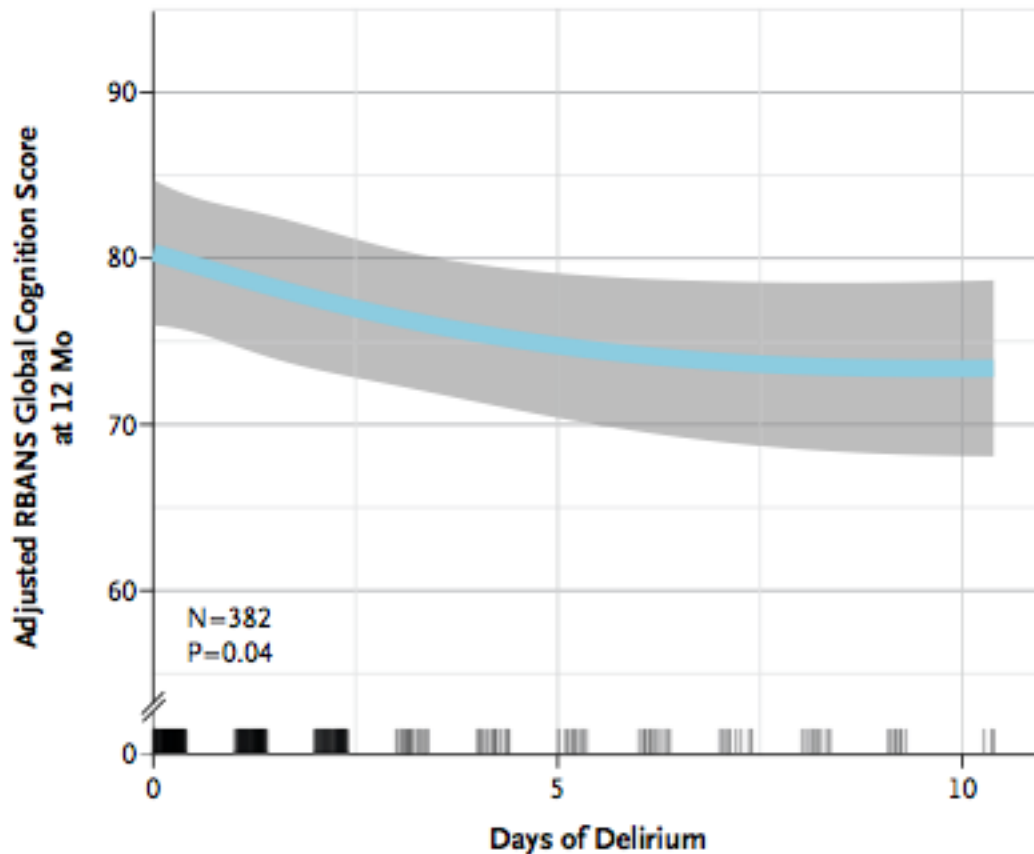


**Patient's pre-illness IQ was 140; following her sepsis and delirium,  
her IQ was 110 at 6 months and 118 at 2 years**

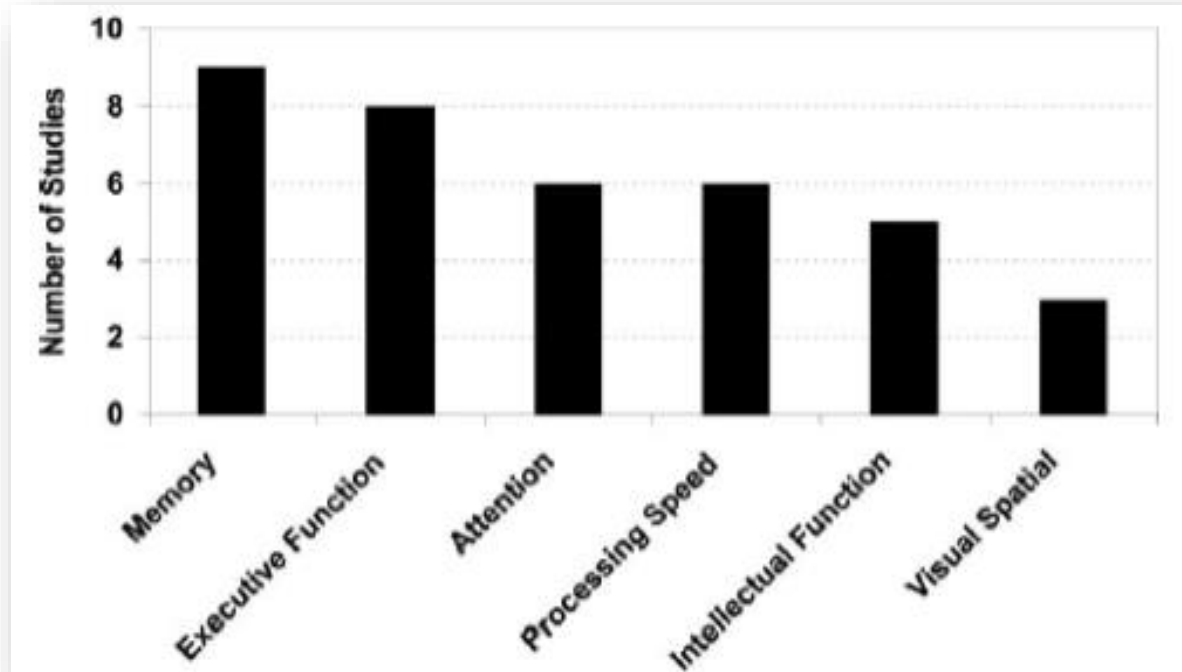
# Long term cognitive impairment after critical illness

- **Association Between Acute Care and Critical Illness Hospitalization and Cognitive Function in Older Adults - Ehlenbach, W. J. et al. JAMA 2010;303:763-770**
  - 2.3x likelihood of cognitive decline after critical illness hospitalization compared with those who had no hospitalization
- **Long-term cognitive impairment and functional disability among survivors of severe sepsis. Iwashyna, TJ et al. JAMA. 2010;304(16):1787-1794**
  - Severe sepsis in this older population was independently associated with substantial and persistent new cognitive impairment and functional disability among survivors.

## The duration of acute brain dysfunction in ICU survivors is associated with 12-Mo cognitive function



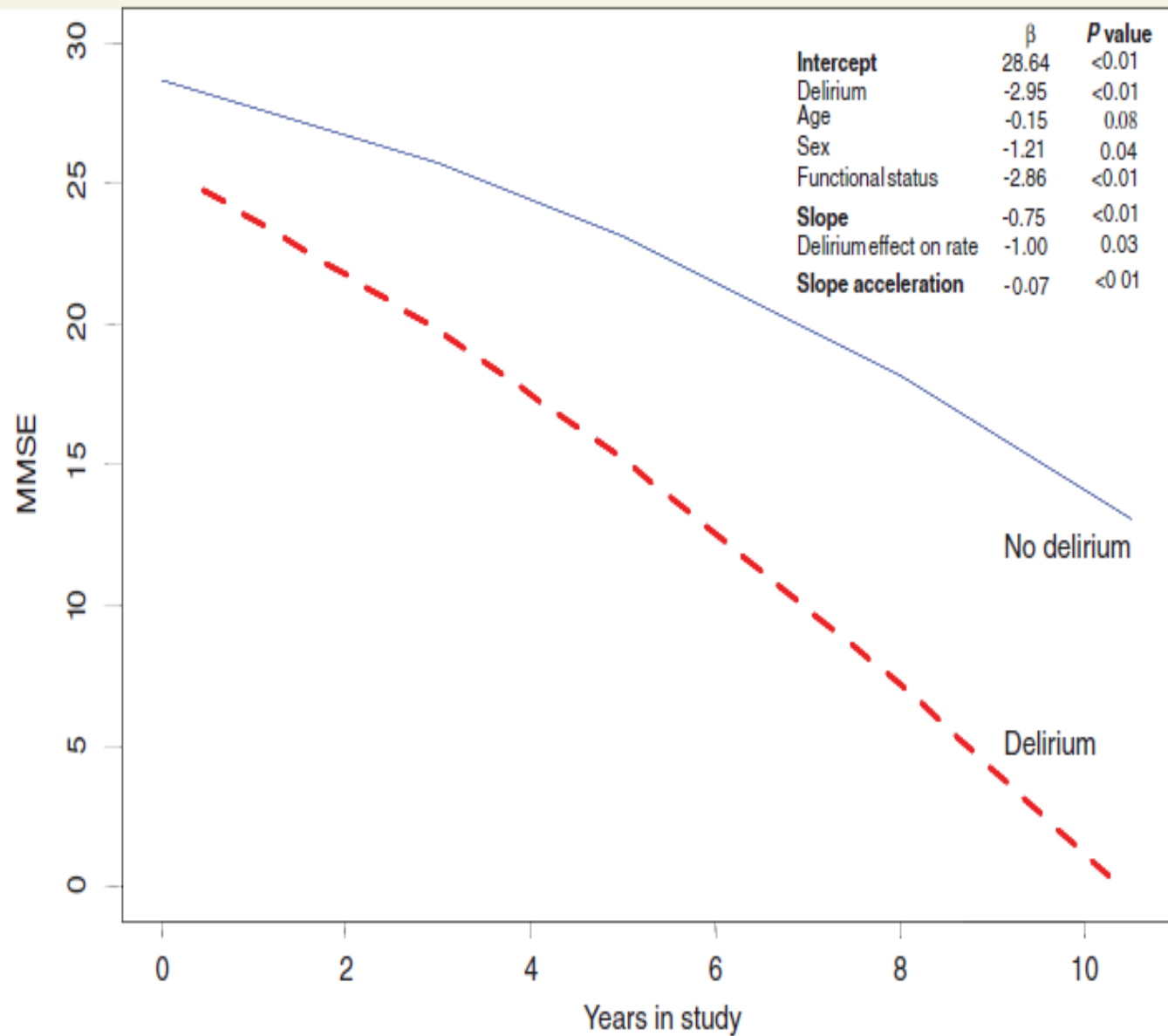
# Prevalence of neurocognitive effects

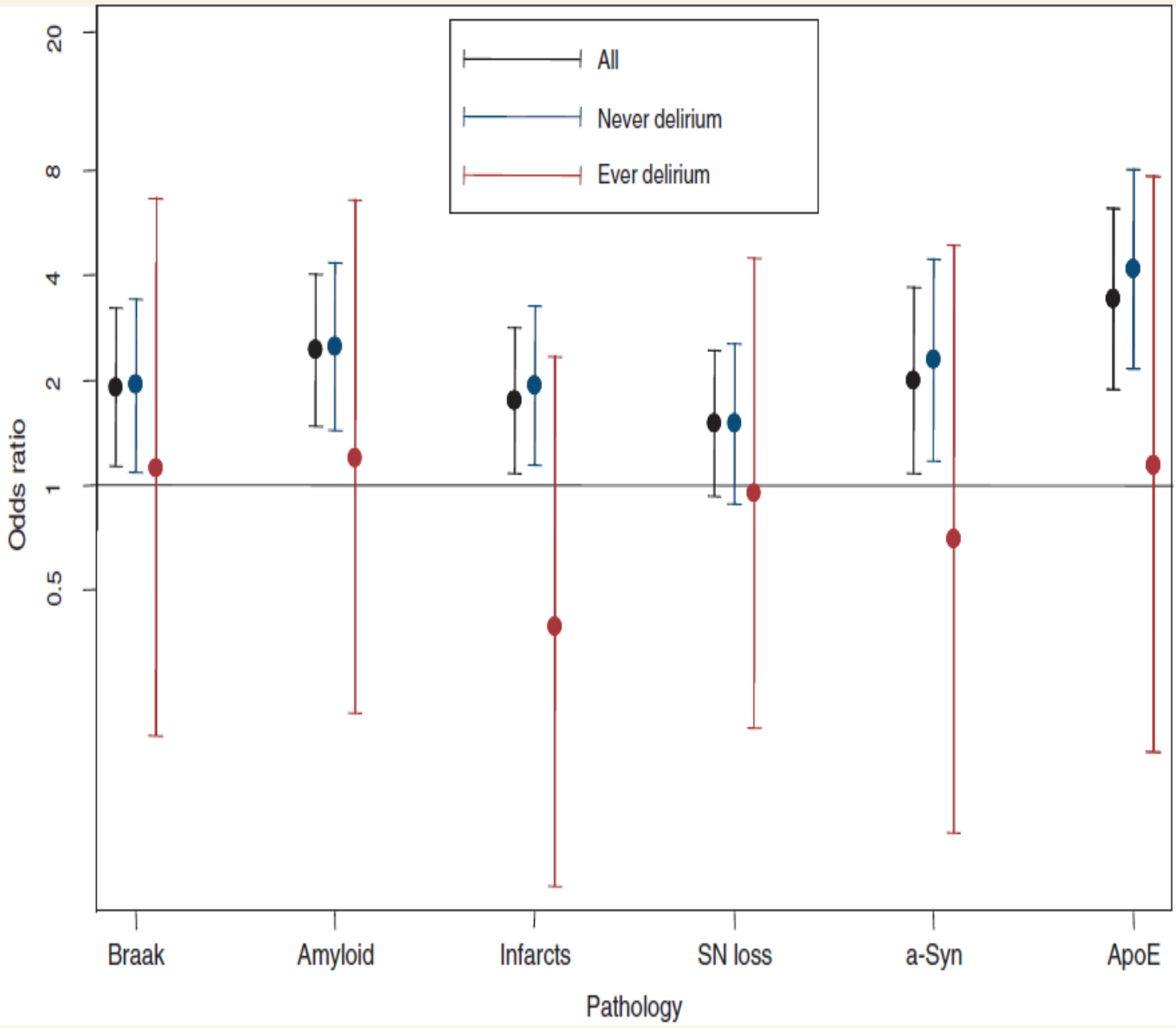


Hopkins et al, CHEST 2006

# Delirium is a strong risk factor for dementia in the oldest-old: a population-based cohort study

Daniel H. J. Davis,<sup>1,2</sup> Graciela Muniz Terrera,<sup>3</sup> Hannah Keage,<sup>1,4</sup> Terhi Rahkonen,<sup>5</sup> Minna Oinas,<sup>6,7</sup> Fiona E. Matthews,<sup>3</sup> Colm Cunningham,<sup>8</sup> Tuomo Polvikoski,<sup>9</sup> Raimo Sulkava,<sup>10</sup> Alasdair M. J. MacLulich<sup>2,11</sup> and Carol Brayne<sup>2</sup>







6 out of 10 ICU patients are  $\geq 65$



Angus *Crit Care Med* 2006; 34: 1016-1024

Angus *JAMA* 2000; 284: 2762-2770

Society of Critical Care Medicine, Critical Care Statistics in the United States, 2012



Annually

**1.4 Million**

Seniors Survive  
the ICU

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**50-70%**

Cognitively  
Impaired

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60-80%

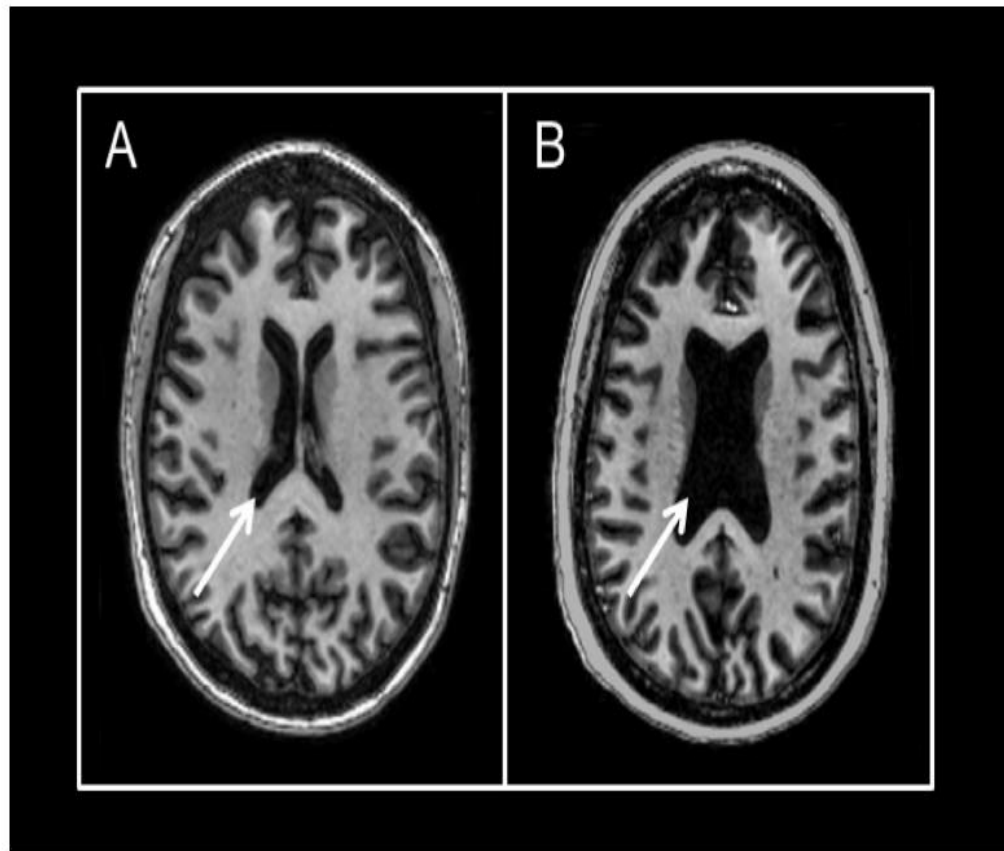
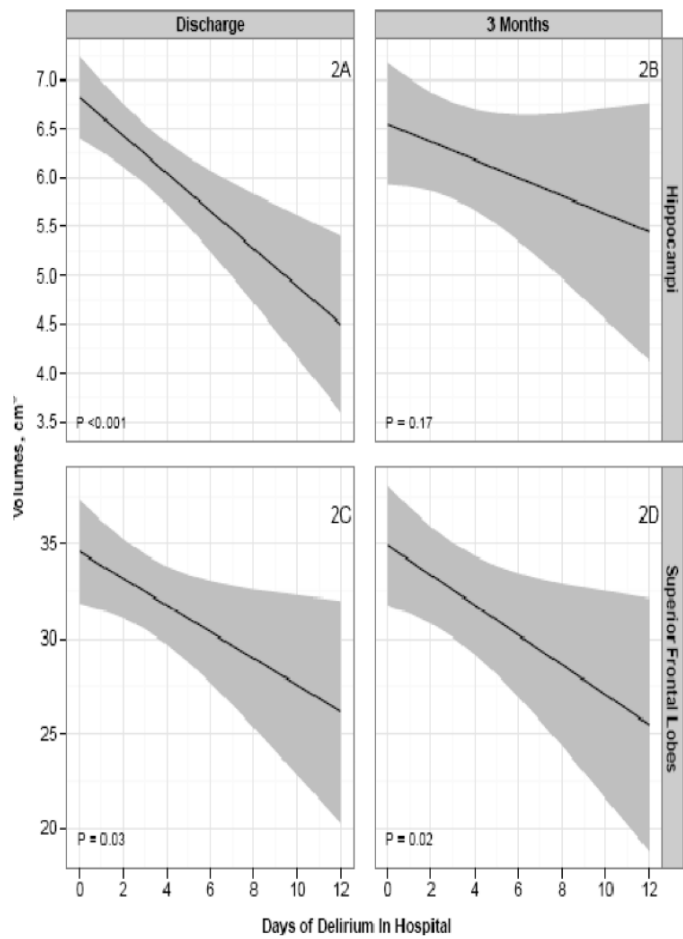
Functionally  
Impaired

via Flickr



# **The Association between Brain Volumes, Delirium Duration and Cognitive Outcomes in Intensive Care Unit Survivors: A Prospective Exploratory Cohort Magnetic Resonance Imaging Study**

**Max L. Gunther, PHD<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>, Alessandro Morandi, MD, MPH<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Erin Krauskopf, BS<sup>7</sup>, Pratik Pandharipande, MD, MSCI<sup>8,9</sup>, Timothy D. Girard, MD, MSCI<sup>4,5,6,10</sup>, James C. Jackson, PSYD<sup>1,4,5,10</sup>, Jennifer Thompson, MPH<sup>11</sup>, Ayumi K. Shintani, PHD<sup>11</sup>, Sunil Geevarghese, MD, MSCI<sup>12</sup>, Russell R Miller III, MD, MPH<sup>13</sup>, Angelo Canonico, MD<sup>14</sup>, Kristen Merkle, BA<sup>3</sup>, Christopher J. Cannistraci, MS<sup>3</sup>, Baxter P. Rogers, PHD<sup>2,3,16</sup>, J. Chris Gatenby, PHD<sup>2,3,16</sup>, Stephan Heckers, MD, MSC<sup>1,2</sup>, John C. Gore, PHD<sup>2,3,16</sup>, Ramona O. Hopkins, PHD<sup>7,13,15</sup>, E. Wesley Ely, MD, MPH<sup>4,5,6,10</sup>, and for the VISIONS Investigation (VISualizing Icu SurvivOrs Neuroradiological Sequelae)**

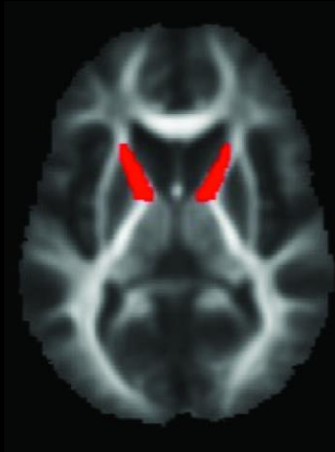


Published in final edited form as:

*Crit Care Med.* 2012 July ; 40(7): 2182–2189. doi:10.1097/CCM.0b013e318250acdc.

## **The Relationship between Delirium Duration, White Matter Integrity, and Cognitive Impairment in Intensive Care Unit Survivors as Determined by Diffusion Tensor Imaging**

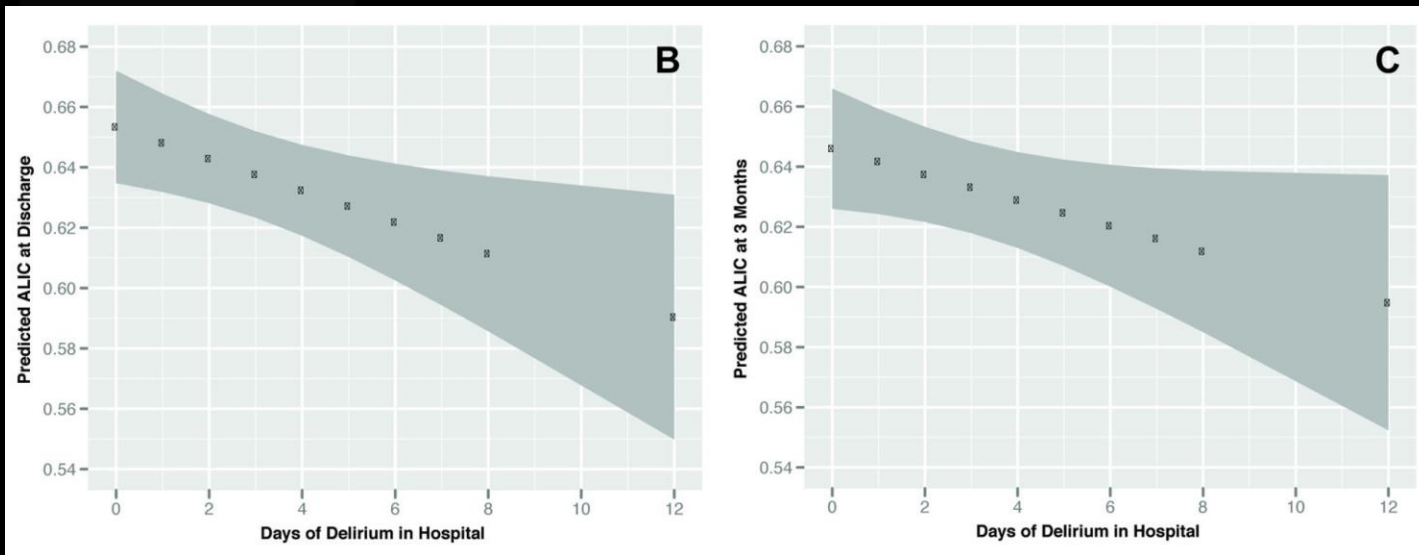
**Alessandro Morandi, MD, MPH<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Baxter P. Rogers, PhD<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Max L. Gunther, PhD<sup>4,5,7</sup>, Kristen Merkle, BA<sup>5</sup>, Pratik Pandharipande, MD, MSCI<sup>8,9</sup>, Timothy D. Girard, MD, MSCI<sup>1,2,3,10</sup>, James C. Jackson, PSyD<sup>2,4,7,10</sup>, Jennifer Thompson, MPH<sup>11</sup>, Ayumi K. Shintani, PhD<sup>11</sup>, Sunil Geevarghese, MD, MSCI<sup>12</sup>, Russell R Miller III, MD, MPH<sup>13</sup>, Angelo Canonico, MD<sup>14</sup>, Christopher J. Cannistraci, MS<sup>5</sup>, Gore John C., PhD<sup>4,5,6</sup>, E. Wesley Ely, MD, MPH<sup>1,2,3,10</sup>, and Ramona O. Hopkins, PhD<sup>13,15</sup> for the VISIONS Investigation (VISualizing Icu SurvivORs Neuroradiological Sequelae)**



# White Matter Integrity and Delirium

Anterior limb of the internal capsule

Reduced fractional anisotropy = white matter disruption

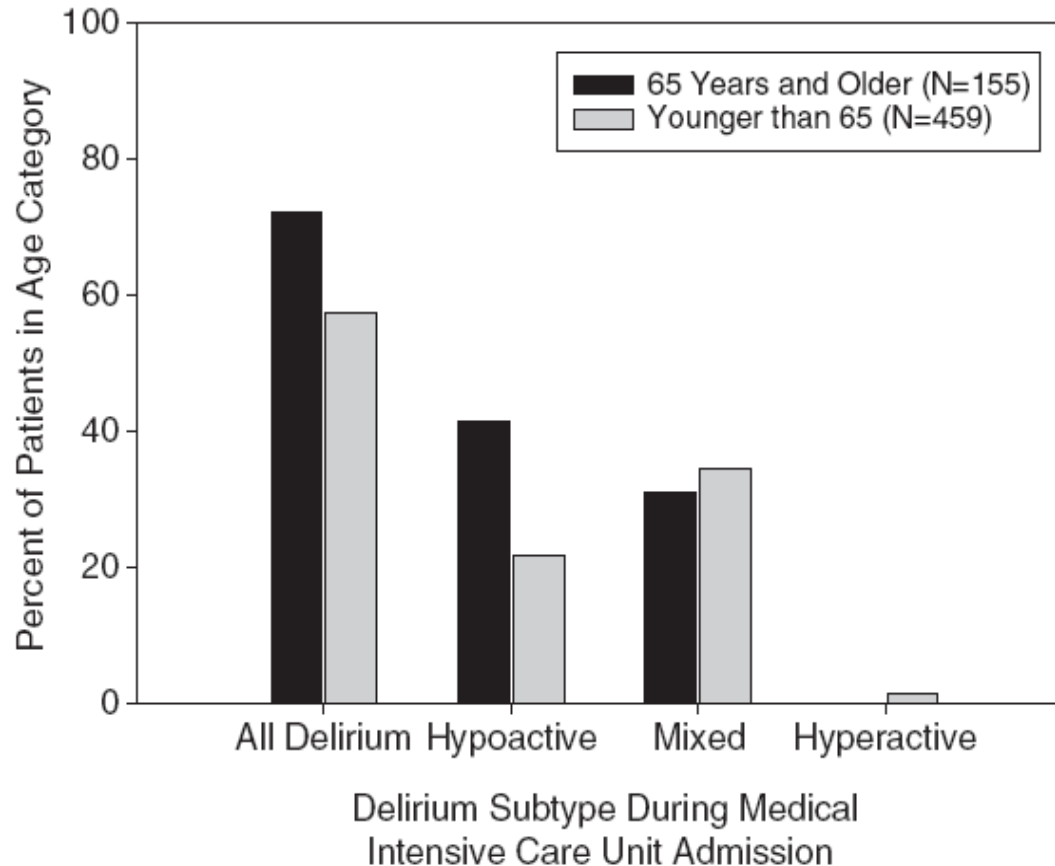




# HOW DO WE DIAGNOSE DELIRIUM?



# WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR THE DIAGNOSIS...



# DELIRIUM EVALUATION

Figure 2

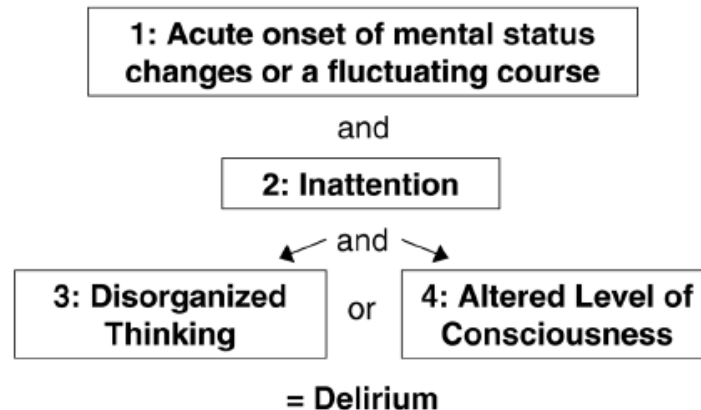
## Step 1: Assess the level of sedation (RASS\*)

- +4 – Overtly combative, violent, immediate danger to staff
- +3 – Pulls or removes tube(s) or catheter(s); aggressive
- +2 – Frequent nonpurposeful movement, fights ventilator
- +1 – Anxious but movements not aggressive or vigorous
- 0 – Alert and calm
- 1 – Not fully alert, but has sustained awakening (eye-opening or eye-contact) in response to voice (>10 seconds)
- 2 – Briefly awakens with eye contact to voice (<10 seconds)
- 3 – Movement or eye opening to voice, but no eye contact
- 4 – No response to voice, but movement or eye opening to physical stimulation
- 5 – No response to voice or physical stimulation

If RASS is -4 or -5, then Stop and Reassess patient later

If RASS is above -4 (-3 through +4) then Proceed to Step 2

## Step 2: Assess for delirium (CAM-ICU†)



# Confusion Assessment Method in the ICU



RASS is above -4  
(-3 through +4)

Proceed to next Step

If RASS is -4 or -5

**Stop**

Reassess patient at later time

## Delirium Assessment (CAM-ICU): 1 AND 2 AND (Either 3 OR 4)

### 1 Acute Onset or Fluctuating Course

An acute change from mental status baseline?  
Or Patient's mental status fluctuating during the past 24hrs

No

Stop  
No delirium

Yes

### 2 Inattention

Please read the following ten letters: S A V E A H A A R T  
Scoring: Error: when patient fails to squeeze on the letter "A"  
Error: when the patient squeezes on any letter other than "A."

< 3 Errors

Stop  
No delirium

≥3 Errors

### 3 Altered Level of Consciousness ("actual" RASS)

If RASS is zero, Proceed to next step

If RASS is other than zero

Stop  
Patient is  
Delirious

0 RASS

### 4 Disorganized Thinking

1. Will a stone float on water? (Or: Will a leaf float on water?)
2. Are there fish in the sea? (Or: Are there elephants in the sea?)
3. Does one pound weigh more than two pounds? (Or: Do two pounds weigh more than one?)
4. Can you use a hammer to pound a nail? (Or: Can you use a hammer to cut wood?)

≥ 2 Errors

Patient is Delirious

5.Command:

Say to patient: "Hold up this many fingers" (Examiner holds two fingers in front of patient)  
"Now do the same thing with the other hand" (Not repeating the number of fingers).

If patient is unable to move both arms for the second part, ask patient "add one more finger"

< 2 Errors

Stop  
No delirium

**OBRIGADA!**  
**[cassiarighy@gmail.com](mailto:cassiarighy@gmail.com)**