

Alcohol Withdrawal

Clinical Features

Delirium Tremens

Wernicke's Encephalopathy

Treatment

Screening alcoholism

alcohol-in-the-ED.ppt

Symptoms peak about 50 hours

- Tremor
- Agitation
- Fits often early multiple brief 30% have fits proceed to DTs if untreated
- sweating
- facial erythema
- tachycardia
- anorexia

Differential

acute schizophrenia

benzo withdrawal

CNS infection

hypoglycaemia

Sepsis

thyrotoxicosis

neuroleptic malignant syndrome

rare before 3rd day of abstinence severe end of withdrawal spectrum

lasts 3-4/7

mortality 15% untreated

Autonomic

Fever

tremor

hypertension

sweating

papillary dilatation

Delirium

agitation

confusion

visual hallucinations

insomnia

CV collapse

CAGE

Paddington

Circle number(s) - for specific trigger(s); consider for ALL the **TOP 10**.

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|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. FALL (i. trip) | 2. COLLAPSE (i. fits) | 3. HEAD INJURY (i. facial) | 4. ASSAULT |
| 5. ACCIDENT (i. Burn, RTA) | 6. UNWELL (i. Request detox / help, self neglect) | | 7. NON SPECIFIC GI |
| 8. PSYCHIATRIC | 9. CARDIAC (i. Chest pain) | 10. REPEAT ATTENDER | Other (specify) _____ |

PADDINGTON ALCOHOL TEST (2003)

PATIENT IDENTIFICATION STICKER:

After dealing with patient's 'agenda,' i.e. patient's reason for attendance: -

1	"We routinely ask all patients in A&E if they drink alcohol - do you drink?"	YES > 2. (No)
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2	"Quite a number of people have times when they drink more than usual; what is the most you will drink in any one day?" (Pub measures in brackets; home measures often x3!)
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Beer/lager/cider	___ Pints (2)	___ Cans (1.5)	Total units/day
Strong Beer/lager/cider	___ Pints (5)	___ Cans (4)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px;"></div>
Wine	___ Glasses (1.5)	___ Bottles (9)	
Fortified Wine (Sherry, Martini)	___ Glasses (1)	___ Bottles (12)	
Spirits (Gin, Whisky, Vodka)	___ Singles (1)	___ Bottles (30)	

3	If this is <u>more than</u> 8 units/day for a man or 6 units/day for a woman, "does this happen...."
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Once a week or more? = **PAT +ve** (every day: ? Pabrinex)
 or if less frequently

At least once a month = **PAT +ve** <1/12 = PAT -ve (trumped by 4.)

4	"Do you feel your current attendance is related to alcohol?"	YES = PAT +ve No = PAT -ve
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Benzodiazepine diazepam chlordiazepoxide

thiamine iv if Wernike's

Pabrinex = number 1 thiamine 250 mg/5ml riboflavin Pyridoxine Hydrochloride

Each No. 2 ampoule contains: Ascorbic Acid BP Nicotinamide BP Anhydrous Glucose BP

Caused by acute thiamine deficiency

Classic triad

- 1 Oculomotor disturbance nystagmus ocular palsies
- 2 Confusion
- 3 ataxia

80% also have polyneuropathy

Korsakoff's

loss of short term memory

confabulation

progressive dementia