

Poster Session IV
Poster #17

*Outcomes Associated With Delirium Motoric Subtype In Hospitalized Older Adults With Delirium
Superimposed On Dementia*

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Purpose: Delirium is a common complication in persons with dementia leading to increased mortality and increased cognitive decline. The purpose of this study was to describe and evaluate the association of delirium subtypes with outcomes in persons with delirium superimposed on dementia (DSD).

Framework: The Vulnerability Framework, a conceptual model that emphasizes the interactive effects of three domains, or sources of vulnerability: characteristics of the vulnerable person (state), the physical, social and cultural context in which the person exists (space) and the non-spatial, temporal flow or trajectory of change (time) was used to guide this work.

Methods: This was a descriptive study using data from a National Institute on Aging (NIA) funded project (# AGO23216) which described the outcomes and risk factors for delirium superimposed on dementia (DSD) in hospitalized older adults. The setting was a community hospital in central Pennsylvania. A total of 140 patients and caregiver dyads were followed throughout their hospitalization and at one and three months. The Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) was used by trained research assistants to measure delirium. Delirium subtype was analyzed during hospitalization and follow-up (one and three months).

Results: The mean age of the 140 subjects was 83.5 years (SD=6.8) and the majority of subjects were female (60%). Forty-eight percent were widowed. Thirty-three percent were dehydrated on admission and 33% had a fall within the last 2 weeks. The percent with delirium at any time, either on admission or while hospitalized, was 41% for full delirium and 89% for subsyndromal delirium.

Conclusions: Understanding the association of delirium and motoric subtypes in DSD is important to both early recognition and outcomes of DSD. Subtypes of delirium may have implications for reversibility and longterm outcomes of delirium in this population. Both practical, research, and policy implications will be discussed.