ICU Psychosis (Intensive Care Unit Psychosis)

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- ICU psychosis facts
- What is ICU psychosis?
- What causes ICU psychosis?
- What are the symptoms of ICU psychosis?
- How is ICU psychosis diagnosed?
- How is ICU psychosis treated?
- Can ICU psychosis be prevented?
- How long does ICU psychosis last?
- How common is ICU psychosis?
- What is an example of a situation of ICU psychosis?
- Can ICU psychosis be dangerous?

Patient Comments: ICU Psychosis - Symptoms
ICU psychosis facts

- Patients in an intensive care unit (ICU) or hospital may become delirious.
- ICU psychosis is a temporary condition and can be treated.
- There is no difference between ICU psychosis and delirium.
- ICU psychosis can be treated by a variety of methods and treatments.
- ICU psychosis is an increasingly prevalent problem and may occur at any time during recovery from an acute illness or traumatic event.
- ICU psychosis can be dangerous.
- All efforts should be made to relieve ICU psychosis.
- The signs of psychosis usually resolve shortly after the patient leaves the ICU.
- ICU psychosis may last 24 hours or even up to two weeks with various symptoms occurring at different times.
- Many factors can be involved in causing ICU psychosis.

What is ICU psychosis?

ICU psychosis is a disorder in which patients in an intensive care unit (ICU) or a similar setting experience a cluster of serious psychiatric symptoms. Another term that may be used interchangeably for ICU psychosis is ICU syndrome. ICU psychosis is also a form of delirium, or acute brain failure.

What causes ICU psychosis?

Environmental Causes

- Sensory deprivation: A patient being put in a room that often has no windows, and is away from family, friends, and all that is familiar and comforting.
- Sleep disturbance and deprivation: The constant disturbance and noise with the hospital staff coming at all hours to check vital signs, give medications, etc.
- Continuous light levels: Continuous disruption of the normal biorhythms with lights on continually (no reference to day or night).
- Stress: Patients in an ICU frequently feel the almost total loss of control over their life.
- Lack of orientation: A patient's loss of time and date.
- Medical monitoring: The continuous monitoring of the patient's vital signs, and the noise monitoring devices produce can be disturbing and create sensory overload.

Medical Causes

- Pain which may not be adequately controlled in an ICU
- Critical illness: The pathophysiology of the disease, illness or traumatic event - the stress on the body during an illness can cause a variety of...
ICU Psychosis: Get Facts on Prevention and Recovery Time

What are the symptoms of ICU psychosis?

- **Medication (drug) reaction or side effects:** The administration of medications typically given to the patient in the hospital setting that they have not taken before.
- **Infection** creating fever and toxins in the body.
- **Metabolic disturbances:** electrolyte imbalance, hypoxia (low blood oxygen levels), and elevated liver enzymes.
- **Heart failure** (inadequate cardiac output)
- **Cumulative analgesia** (the inability to feel pain while still conscious)
- **Dehydration**

Medically Reviewed by a Doctor on 5/14/2015

Patient Comments

**ICU Psychosis - Symptoms**

What symptoms did you or someone you know experience with an ICU psychosis? How long did they last?

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**ICU Psychosis - Treatment**

What types of treatment, including therapy and medication, were used for an ICU psychosis in you or a relative?

- Submit »

Suggested Reading on ICU Psychosis by Our Doctors

- Related Diseases & Conditions
- 13 articles
- Dehydration
  - Dehydration is the excessive loss of body water. There are a number of causes of dehydration including heat exposure, prolonged vigorous exercise, and
- Anxiety
  - Anxiety is a feeling of apprehension and fear characterized by physical symptoms. Anxiety disorders are serious medical illnesses that affect approximately
- Panic Attacks
  - Panic attacks are sudden feelings of terror that strike without warning. These episodes can occur at any time, even during sleep. A person experiencing
- Stress
  - Stress occurs when forces from the outside world impinge on the individual. Stress is a

Popular Collections

- Scales, Plaques & Eruptions

Exclusives

- What Does Psoriasis Look Like?
- How to Prevent Muscle Cramps
- Blood Clot? Know the Signs and Symptoms
- Allergy Triggers: Do You Know Yours?