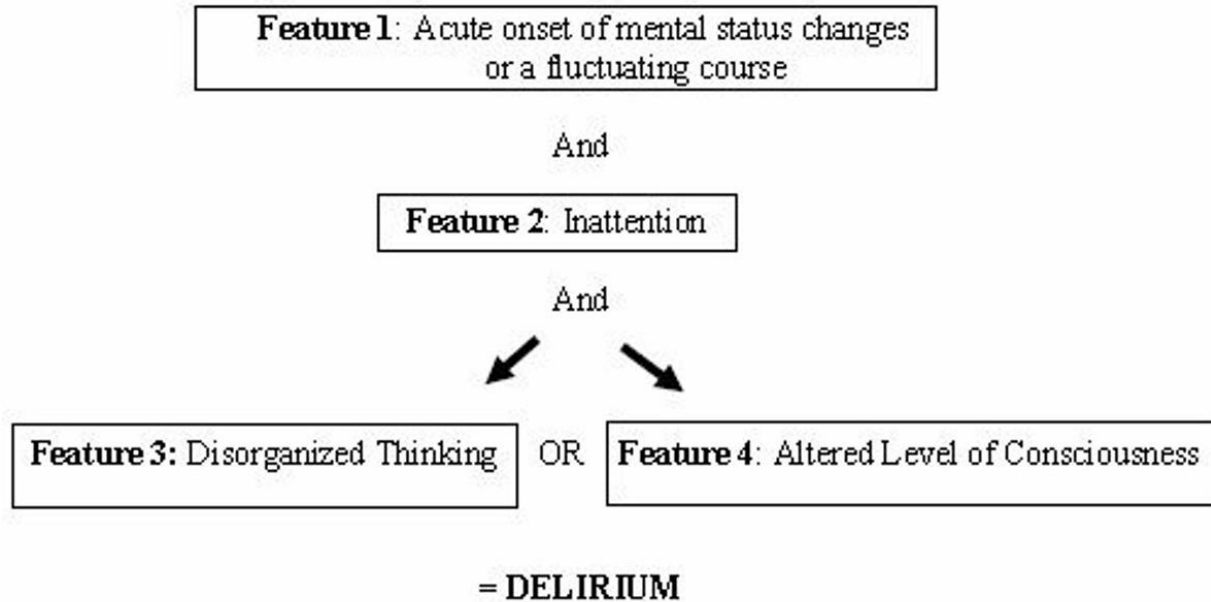




CAM (Confusion Assessment Method)



Feature 1 (Acuity): Usually obtained by collateral information from family or medical staff:
 "Is there evidence of an acute change in mental status from the patient's baseline?"
 "Did the abnormal behavior fluctuate during the day, that is, tend to come and go, or increase and decrease in severity?"

Feature 2 (Inattention): Ask the following question(s):
 "Did the patient have trouble with attention? For example, did they have a hard time following a conversation or becoming easily distracted? Other ways to assess are:
 Asking to repeat days of the week/months backwards
 Serial 7's (counting backwards from 100 by subtracting 7)

Feature 3 (Disorganized Thinking): Ask the following questions:
 Was the patient rambling, tangential, switching from one topic to another, hallucinating, having an illogical flow of ideas?

Feature 4: (Altered level of consciousness): Described as one of the following
 Normal = alert
 Hyperalert = vigilant
 Drowsy, easily aroused = lethargic
 Difficult to arouse = stupor
 Unarousable = coma

Adapted from Confusion Assessment Method. © 1988, 2003, Hospital Elder Life Program. All rights reserved. Adapted from: Inouye SK et al. Ann Intern Med. 1990; 113:941-8.