

Key Differences that Distinguish Delirium from Dementia

Select the word or phrase that accurately describes the identifying feature of delirium vs. dementia in each of the following categories.

	Delirium		Dementia	
Onset	Hours to days	Month to years	Hours to days	Month to years
Duration	Years	Hours to weeks	Years	Hours to weeks
Course	Progressive	Fluctuating	Progressive	Fluctuating
Attention	Usually, clear	Disordered	Usually, clear	Disordered
Alertness	Impaired	Normal	Impaired	Normal
Consciousness	Altered	Usually, clear	Altered	Usually, clear
Speech	Problems finding words	Incoherent; rapid/slowed	Problems finding words	Incoherent; rapid/slowed
Psychomotor Changes	Increased/decreased	Normal	Increased/decreased	Normal
Vital Signs	Typically, abnormal	Normal	Typically, abnormal	Normal
Reversibility	Irreversible	Reversible, if treated promptly	Irreversible	Reversible, if treated promptly