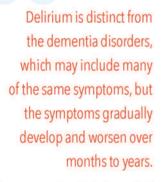




LOCAL EXPERTS DEFINE HEALTH RELATED TERMS



- Rashida Gray, MD



What is Delirium?

Delirium, (also known as encephalopathy), can be diagnosed in persons of any age, although more commonly in the senior population. This is a medical condition characterized by fluctuating agitation or sleepiness, confusion, disorientation, poor memory or psychosis. These symptoms are typically acute in onset and out of character for the patient. Delirium is distinct from the dementia disorders, which may include many of the above symptoms, but the symptoms gradually develop and worsen over months to years. Many patients with delirium will improve and return to their previous functioning. A diagnosis of delirium is typically made in the hospital setting, because it is the brain's response to a wide variety of medical illnesses or medications. The treatment of delirium may include calming medications, but really hinges upon the treatment of any and all underlying medical conditions and may also include the removal of certain medications. Although delirium typically reverses fully, it is a medical condition requiring attention, because if left untreated, it may significantly increase the risk of morbidity and mortality.

Rashida Gray, MD

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What is Trigger Point Dry Needling?

Trigger point dry needling utilizes a solid filaform needle. No substances are injected, therefore the technique is called 'dry needling'.

Trigger points are hyper-irritable spots in a taut band of a muscle. Trigger points may cause pain locally or refer pain to other areas and cause dysfunction of normal movement patterns.

Specific evaluation, palpation, and treatment of trigger points may reduce pain and restore function.

Physical therapists performing this procedure have advanced training and certification in the use of trigger point dry needling.

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What is Vestibular Therapy?

Dizziness, nausea and a loss of balance: those are just a few of the symptoms that can occur as a result of impairments to the vestibular system, the network of small fluid-filled canals inside the ears. Vestibular function helps regulate balance and spatial awareness. If you've ever walked along an unlit beach at night, it's the vestibular system that helps you navigate that landscape.

When an infection, autoimmune disease or trauma damages the vestibular system, a person can suffer a loss of balance, persistent dizziness, nausea, gaze instability or blurred vision.

A physical therapist can offer relief through vestibular therapy. Treatment techniques are based on the cause of vestibular damage and may include exercises such as gaze stabilization, balance and strength training, and movement techniques aimed at reducing dizziness. The goal is to help patients feel confident on their feet again.

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