

## **Acute Confusion workup ( GCS 14/15)**

- Before applying this, exclude acute urinary retention and severe pain

Causes for delirium.

Mnemonic- **I WATCH DEATH**

Potential causes	Differential diagnosis
<b>Infectious</b>	Sepsis, encephalitis, meningitis, syphilis, central nervous system abscess
<b>Withdrawal</b>	Alcohol, barbiturates, sedative-hypnotics
<b>Acute metabolic</b>	Acidosis, electrolyte disturbance, hepatic/renal failure, other metabolic disturbances (glucose, magnesium, calcium)
<b>Trauma</b>	Head, burns
<b>CNS disease</b>	Hemorrhage, cerebrovascular accident, vasculitis, seizures, tumor
<b>Hypoxia</b>	Acute hypoxia, chronic lung disease, hypotension
<b>Deficiencies</b>	Vitamin B <sub>12</sub> , hypovitaminosis, niacin, thiamine
<b>Environmental</b>	Hypo/hyperthermia, endocrinopathies, diabetes, adrenal, thyroid
<b>Acute vascular</b>	Hypertensive emergency, subarachnoid hemorrhage, sagittal vein thrombosis
<b>Toxins/drugs</b>	Medications, street drugs, alcohols, pesticides, industrial poisons, carbon monoxide, cyanide, solvents, etc
<b>Heavy metals</b>	Lead, mercury

\* The above table was adapted from Table 102–1 of Smith and Seirafi,<sup>16</sup> which the authors modified from Wise MG.