

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS IN GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

V	Vascular	diseases include myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, cerebral arteriosclerosis, and thrombosis.
I	Inflammatory/ Infection	diseases include syphilis, encephalitis, tuberculosis, brain abscess, influenza, pneumonia, and any prolonged infectious state, particularly urinary tract infections or infections in hospitalized patients with multiple interventions.
N	Neoplasms	include cerebral tumors, tumors of the endocrine glands, and any neoplasm which is metastatic or which affects the metabolism of the body by a hormone or enzyme which it secretes. Pancreatic carcinoma is frequently associated with depression.
D	Degenerative	diseases and deficiency diseases suggest progressive or vascular neurocognitive disorders, pellagra, Wilson disease, and atrophy of the various endocrine glands.
I	Intoxication	suggests lead poisoning, alcoholism, bromism, hypercalcemia, hypocalcemia, uremia, anoxia from pulmonary disease, anemia, heart disease, and corticosteroid therapy, as well as many other drugs. Porphyrria may cause depression or a psychotic state. Withdrawal states from substances previously dependent on can cause significant anxiety.
C	Congenital	suggests the depression associated with many congenital neurologic diseases: epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, Friedreich ataxia, myotonic dystrophy, and the depression associated with congenital heart disease and congenital defects of many organ systems.
A	Autoimmune	diseases include all systemic autoimmune diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, and lupus erythematosus.
T	Traumatic	disorders include posttraumatic neurosis or depression, neurocirculatory asthenia, and postconcussion syndrome.
E	Endocrine	diseases include hypopituitarism, acromegaly, hypothyroidism, apathetic hyperthyroidism, hypoparathyroidism, hyperparathyroidism, diabetes mellitus, insuloma, hypogonadism, Cushing syndrome, autoimmune thyroid disease/hashimoto's and adrenal insufficiency.

Adapted from Collins, R.D. (2012). Differential Diagnosis in primary care. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.