Geriatric Emergency Medicine Initiative  
Resident Training Lecture Objectives

The Geriatric Patient with Altered Mental Status

Presenter: Anita Chopra, MD  
Length: 1 hour

Target Audience:  
Emergency Medicine Residents (Primary)  
Internal Medicine Residents  
Emergency Medicine Faculty

Presentation Overview:
Older patients seen in the emergency room frequently present with acute changes in mental status. Often, a change in mental status is an indication of a serious medical or surgical problem. The goal of this session is to provide a framework for understanding the need for a structured assessment of altered mental status to identify underlying causes. Delirium, a common cause of altered mental status, is frequently missed in the ED. The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine has recommended delirium screening as one of the quality indicators for emergency geriatric care. This session will discuss the definition, risk factors, diagnosis and management of delirium in the older ED patient.

Learning objectives:
At the end of this presentation, residents will be able to:
1. Describe a systematic approach to assessing an older patient presenting with altered mental status
2. Recognize negative consequences of missed diagnosis of delirium
3. Describe distinguishing features of delirium and dementia
4. Identify risk factors of delirium
5. Discuss the diagnosis and management of delirium in the ED setting.

Instructional Methods:
Didactic presentation with PowerPoint slides  
Case-based discussion  
Audience response questions

Evaluation Methods:
Pre-Test Items  
Post-Test Items  
Reaction survey
Resource(s):
YouTube Lecture Presentation:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2Z2A40CfNk&feature=plcp

References: