

Table 2. 3-Minute Diagnostic Interview for Delirium Using the Confusion Assessment Method (3D-CAM).*

Type of Assessment	Feature 1: Acute Change in Mental Status with a Fluctuating Course†	Feature 2: Inattention	Feature 3: Disorganized Thinking	Feature 4: Altered Level of Consciousness
Patient responses: any positive symptom report, incorrect response, lack of response, or nonsense response indicates that the feature is present	Ask whether patient has experienced the following in the past day: Being confused Thinking that he or she is not in the hospital Seeing things that are not really there	Ask patient to do the following: Digit span (3 digits) backward Digit span (4 digits) backward Days of the week backward Months of the year backward	Ask patient to state the following: The current year The day of the week The type of place (hospital)	None
Interviewer observations: any "yes" indicates that the feature is present	Were there fluctuations in the level of consciousness? Fluctuations in attention? Fluctuations in speech or thinking?	Did the patient have trouble keeping track of the interview? Was the patient easily distractible?	Was the patient's flow of ideas unclear or illogical? Conversation rambling or tangential? Speech unusually limited or sparse?	Was the patient sleepy?‡ Stuporous or comatose? Hypervigilant?

* The CAM algorithm requires the presence of features 1 and 2 and either 3 or 4 to diagnose delirium. Adapted from Marcantonio et al.³³

† A supplemental assessment of feature 1 is to be performed only if feature 2 and either feature 3 or 4 is present but feature 1 is not present: on the first 3D-CAM assessment, any evidence of an acute change in mental status from the medical record or from a family member or health care provider indicates that feature 1 is present; on the second or later assessment, any new incorrect answer or positive symptom or observation since the previous 3D-CAM assessments indicates that feature 1 is present.

‡ The patient must actually fall asleep during the interview.