

Differential Diagnosis for Confusion			
	Delirium	Dementia	Psychosis
Core Feature	Inattention	Memory loss	Break with reality
Onset	Acute	Insidious	Variable
Course	Fluctuating	Chronic, progressive decline	Chronic, with exacerbations
Duration	Hours to months	Months to years	Months to years
Consciousness	Altered	Normal	Normal
Attention	Impaired	Normal in early stages	Normal
Orientation	Fluctuating	Impaired	Normal
Hallucinations	Visual	Variable	Auditory
Medical Conditions or Drug Toxicity	Present	Usually absent	Usually absent

From the Article:  
**“Assessing and Treating Delirium in Older Adults”**  
 by **Rehan Aziz, MD**

*The Carlat Geriatric Psychiatry Report*, Volume 1, Number 5&6, July/August/September 2022  
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