

How is delirium different from dementia?

Dementia:

A **progressive** dysfunction of **memory and cognition** that is **not due to another illness**. Sudden onset, focal findings or gait disturbance at onset make dementia diagnosis unlikely. With disease progression, may develop neuropsychiatric problems such as agitation, apathy, delusions, hallucinations and depression.

DSM IV:

- Short and long term memory impairment
- Impairment in abstract thinking, judgment, other higher cortical function or personality change
- Cognitive disturbance interferes significantly with work, social activities or relationships with others
- **These cognitive changes do not occur exclusively in the setting of delirium**

