

Creating a Differential Diagnosis

VINDICATE		
V	Vascular	
I	Infectious / Inflammatory	
N	Neoplastic	
D	Drugs (toxins) / Degenerative / Deficiency	
I	Idiopathic / Iatrogenic / Intoxication	
C	Congenital	
A	Autoimmune / Allergy / Anatomic	
T	Traumatic	
E	Endocrine / Environment	

DDx for Altered Mental Status using “VINDICATE”

VINDICATE		
V	Vascular	Stroke, TIA, cerebral hypoxia, subarachnoid hemorrhage, seizure, hypertensive encephalopathy
I	Infectious / Inflammatory	UTI, Pna, Sepsis, Meningitis, Encephalitis, Abscess
N	Neoplastic	Tumor (primary brain vs mets)
D	Degenerative / Deficiency	Degenerative - Alzheimer's, Huntington's, other dementias
I	Iatrogenic / Intoxication / Idiopathic	Iatrogenic/intoxication - EtOH, narcotics, medications, or withdrawal
C	Congenital	Epilepsy, Inborn errors of metabolism
A	Autoimmune / Allergy / Anatomic	Autoimmune - CNS lupus, neurosarcoidosis Anatomic - intracranial space occupying lesions
T	Traumatic	TBI, traumatic epidural/subdural hematoma
E	Endocrine (Metabolic) / Environment	electrolyte disturbance, DKA, uremia, vitamin deficiency, thyroid disease