

# Danger

**Danger** refers to the possibility of harm, injury, or adverse outcome. It denotes a condition or situation in which there is a **credible threat** to physical, psychological, or systemic integrity.

In scientific, clinical, and risk analysis contexts, “danger” is distinguished from “risk” and “hazard”:

## Key Concepts

- **Hazard**: a potential source of harm (e.g. radiation, pathogen).
- **Danger**: the immediate potential for harm due to the presence or proximity of a hazard.
- **Risk**: the probability and severity of harm occurring from that danger.

## Examples in Clinical Context

- “**The patient is in danger of respiratory failure.**”
- “**Delayed evacuation of an epidural hematoma poses immediate danger to life.**”
- “**The drug was withdrawn due to the danger of fatal arrhythmias.**”

## Characteristics of Danger

- Often **time-sensitive**: danger implies **imminent or escalating threat**.
- Can be **context-dependent**: what is dangerous in one situation may be tolerated in another.
- Requires **judgment and action**: identification of danger often prompts urgent intervention.

## Distinction from Related Terms

Term	Definition
Hazard	A potential source of harm, but not necessarily active.
Danger	An active or imminent threat that may cause immediate harm.
Risk	A measure that combines likelihood and impact of an adverse event.

## Summary

**Danger** is not merely theoretical—it implies a **real and pressing threat** requiring awareness and potentially immediate response. In clinical settings, recognizing danger can mean the difference between proactive care and avoidable harm.

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