

# □ Delayed

**Delayed** refers to any **clinical event, diagnosis, complication, or intervention that occurs later than expected** based on typical timelines, protocols, or physiological responses.

## □ Clinical Usage

- **Delayed bleeding**: hemorrhage that develops hours or days after trauma or surgery.
- **Delayed awakening**: failure to regain consciousness in the expected postoperative or post-ictal window.
- **Delayed diagnosis**: identification of a condition after a clinically significant or avoidable time lapse.

## ⚠ Why It Matters

- May indicate evolving pathology (e.g., hematoma expansion, edema).
- Often requires **heightened surveillance** and **repeat imaging**.
- Associated with **increased morbidity** if not anticipated.

## □ Common Examples in Neurosurgery

- Delayed intracranial hemorrhage in anticoagulated patients after mild TBI.
- Delayed ischemic deficits after subarachnoid hemorrhage.
- Delayed hydrocephalus after tumor resection or meningitis.

## □ Best Practice

- Anticipate based on risk factors (age, anticoagulation, comorbidities).
- Include in discharge instructions and follow-up plans.
- Use structured observation protocols (e.g., 6–24h CT control in TBI).

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