

# Delirium tremens

When [delirium tremens](#) occur, they usually begin within 4 days of the onset of EtOH withdrawal, and typically persist for 1–3 days.

Signs and symptoms include profound [disorientation](#), [agitation](#), [tremor](#), [insomnia](#), [hallucinations](#), severe autonomic instability (tachycardia, HTN, diaphoresis, hyperthermia). <sup>1)</sup>

Mortality is 5–10% (higher in elderly) but can be reduced with treatment (including treating associated medical problems and treatment for seizures). Haloperidol and phenothiazines may control hallucinations but can lower the seizure threshold. HTN and tachyarrhythmias should be treated as an [Alcohol withdrawal syndrome](#)

<sup>1)</sup>

Treatment of Alcohol Withdrawal. Med Letter. 1986; 28:75–76

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:55**

