

Table 9-1 Differentiation of Mental Status Examination Findings

	ORGANIC BRAIN SYNDROME		PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS		MOOD DISORDERS
	<i>Delirium</i>	<i>Dementia</i>	<i>Manic Episode</i>	<i>Schizophrenic Disorder</i>	<i>Depressive Disorder</i>
<i>Appearance and behavior</i>	Fluctuating impairment of consciousness, restlessness	May show deterioration of personal habits but state of consciousness not clouded	Hyperactive, elated, assertive, boisterous, with rapid emphatic speed; may become suddenly angry or argumentative	Variable	Dejected, slowed, slumped, troubled
<i>Mood</i>	Anxiety, fear lability	Irritability, lability	Elation, sometimes anger and irritability	Blandness, impoverishment or inappropriateness of affect	Depression, hopelessness
<i>Thought processes and perceptions</i>					
Coherence and relevance	May be confused, incoherent	May become confused	Rapid association of ideas that may seem illogical	Often incoherent, disorganized	
Thought content	May have delusions		May have delusions and feelings of persecution	May have feelings of unreality, depersonalization, persecution, influence and reference; delusions that are bizarre and symbolic	May have delusions, often involving guilt, self-deprecation, somatic complaints
Perceptions	May have illusions, hallucinations		May have illusions, rarely hallucinations	May have hallucinations and illusions, often bizarre and symbolic	May have illusions, rarely hallucinations
<i>Cognitive function</i>					
Orientation	May be disoriented	May be disoriented	Well-oriented	Usually but not always well oriented	Well-oriented
Attention and concentration	Poor	Poor	Distractible		
Recent memory	Poor	Poor		Usually well preserved but may be difficult to test because of inattentiveness and indifference	
Remote memory	May become poor	May become poor		Usually well preserved but may be difficult to test because of inattentiveness and indifference	
Information	Preserved until late	Preserved until late			
Vocabulary	Preserved until late	Preserved until late			
Abstract reasoning	Concrete	Concrete		Concrete, may be bizarre	
Judgement	Poor	Poor			
Perception and coordination	May be poor	May be poor			

