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# Il delirium, un problema troppo spesso sottovalutato: inquadramento clinico e risultati del Delirium Day

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# Delirium

- Il delirium è una sindrome neuropsichiatrica caratterizzata da un cambiamento acuto delle performances cognitive (con particolare riferimento alle capacità attentive e alla consapevolezza di se nell'ambiente), un alterato «arousal» e una tendenza alla fluttuazione dei sintomi
  - Acute Brain Dysfunction

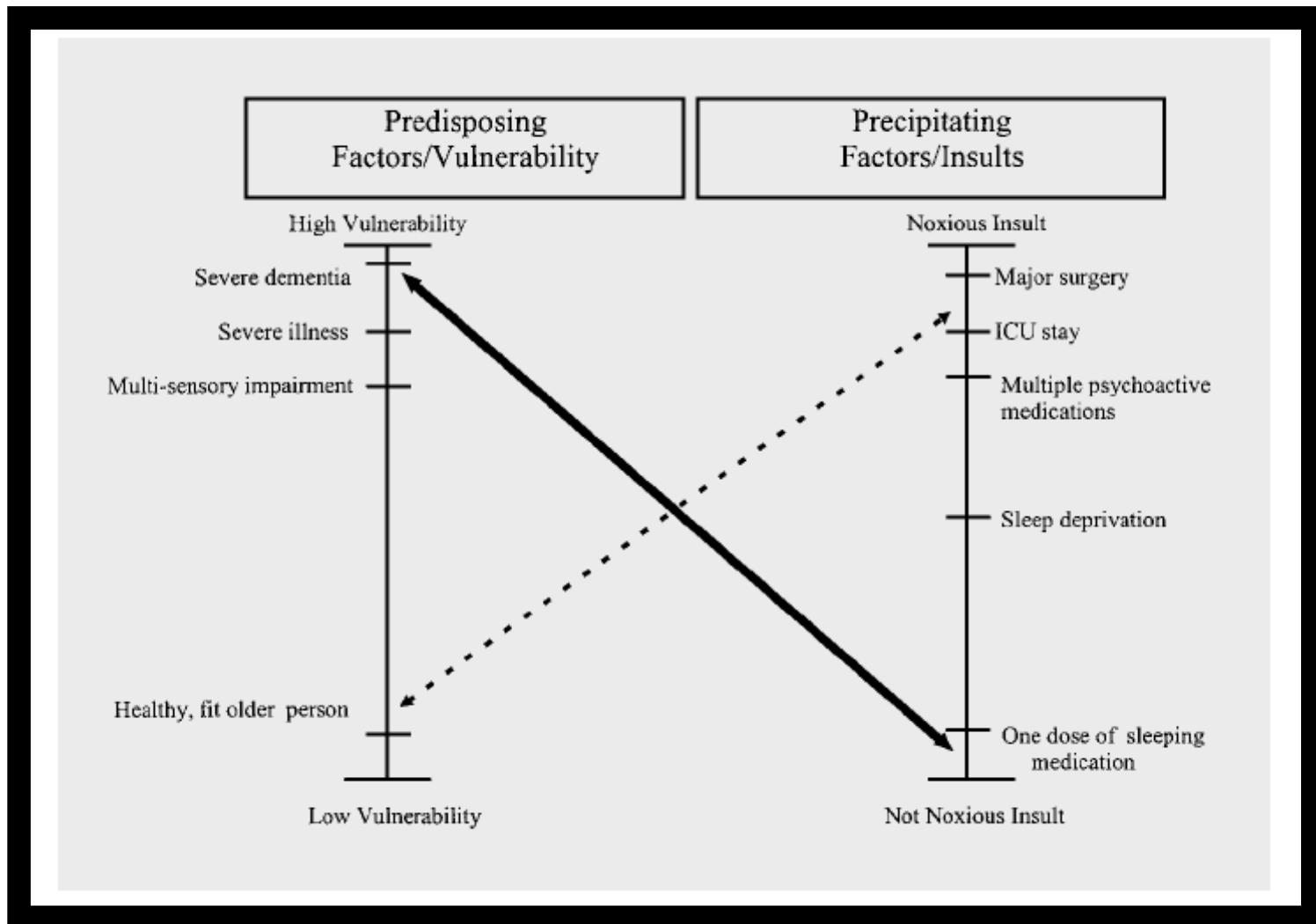
# Delirium: criteri del DSM-5

- A. Disturbo dell' attenzione (i.e., ridotta capacità a dirigere, focalizzare, sostenere e shiftare l' attenzione) e consapevolezza (ridotto orientamento del se nell' ambiente).**
- B. Il deficit si sviluppa in un periodo di tempo relativamente breve (generalmente ore o pochi giorni ), rappresenta un cambiamento dai livelli di attenzione e consapevolezza di base, e tende a fluttuare in gravità nel corso della giornata.**
- C. È presente un altro deficit cognitivo (es, memoria, disorientamento, linguaggio, abilità visuospaziali, o dispercezioni).**
- D. I deficit di cui ai criteri A e C non sono spiegabili sulla base di un preesistente (stazionario o in evoluzione) disturbo neurocognitivo e non si verificano in un contesto di grave riduzione dei livelli di arousal (es coma)**
- E. Vi è evidenza per storia clinica, esame obiettivo o risultati di laboratorio che il delirium è una diretta conseguenza di un problema clinico, intossicazione o sospensione di farmaci, esposizione a tossine, o è dovuto a molteplici eziologie.**

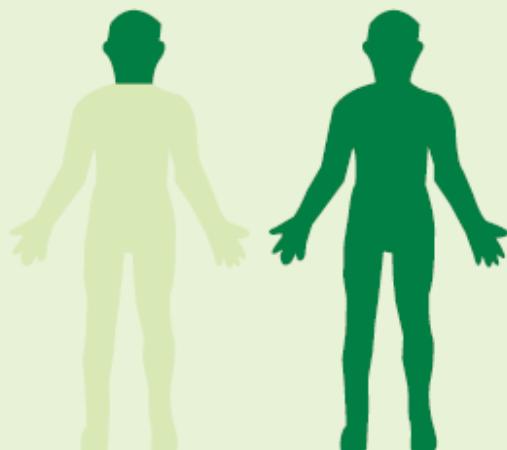
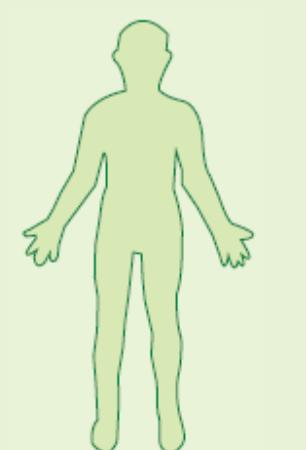
Il delirium è presente se tutti e 5 i criteri sono soddisfatti

*Am Psychiatr Assoc, May 2013*

# Multifactorial model of delirium in the elderly



**Table 1. Triggers for delirium****Precipitating factors**

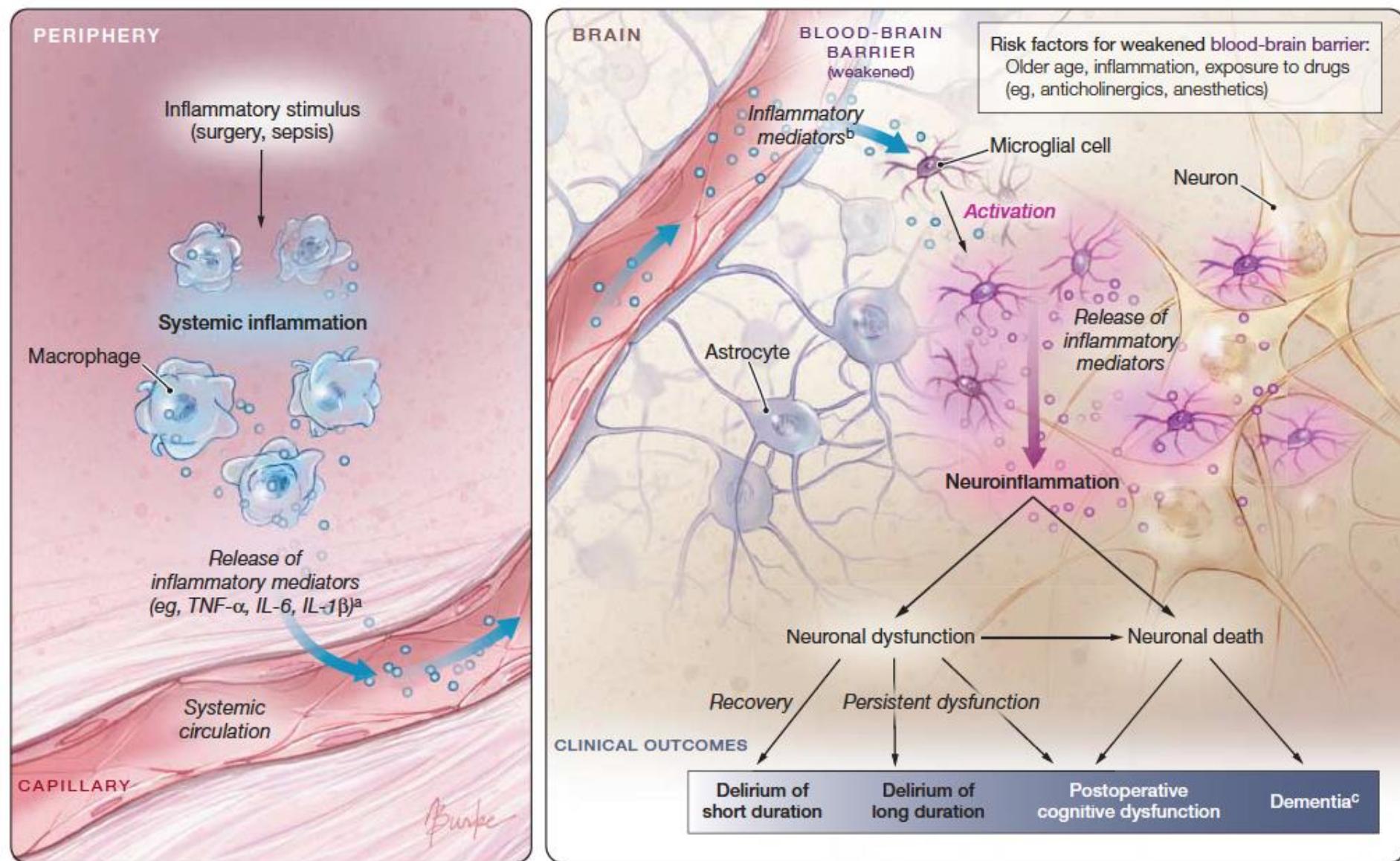
		
<b>Central</b>	<b>Peripheral</b>	<b>Environmental</b>
<b>Encephalitis</b>	<b>Constipation</b>	<b>Emotional distress</b>
	Urinary retention	<b>Sensory impairment</b>
	Anaemia and nutrition	<b>Sleep disturbance</b>
	Folate, B12, thiamine	
	<b>Pain</b>	
	Fracture	
	<b>Toxins/toxin withdrawal</b>	
	Alcohol, drugs, anaesthetic	
<b>seizure</b>	Urine, chest, brain, joint, valve, disc	

**Box 3. Medication classes with known delirium potential<sup>22</sup>**

- > Neuroleptic
- > Opioid
- > Benzodiazepine
- > Anti-histamine
- > Dihydropyridine
- > H2 receptor antagonist
- > Cardiac glycoside
- > Steroid
- > NSAID
- > Tricyclic antidepressant
- > Anti-parkinson

NSAID = Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent

**Figure.** Inflammatory Model of the Pathophysiology of Postoperative Delirium



# Perché il delirium interessa i medici «degli organi» e non solo i medici «della psiche»

- “Acute confusion is a far more common herald of the onset of physical illness in an old person than are, for example, fever, pain or tachycardia”
- “Failure to diagnose delirium and to identify and treat its underlying causes may have lethal consequences for the patient, since it may constitute the most prominent presenting feature of myocardial infarction, pneumonia, or some other life-threatening physical illness”.

*Lipowski ZJ, Am J Psychiatry 1983  
Lipowski ZJ, NEJM 1989*

THE TIMES

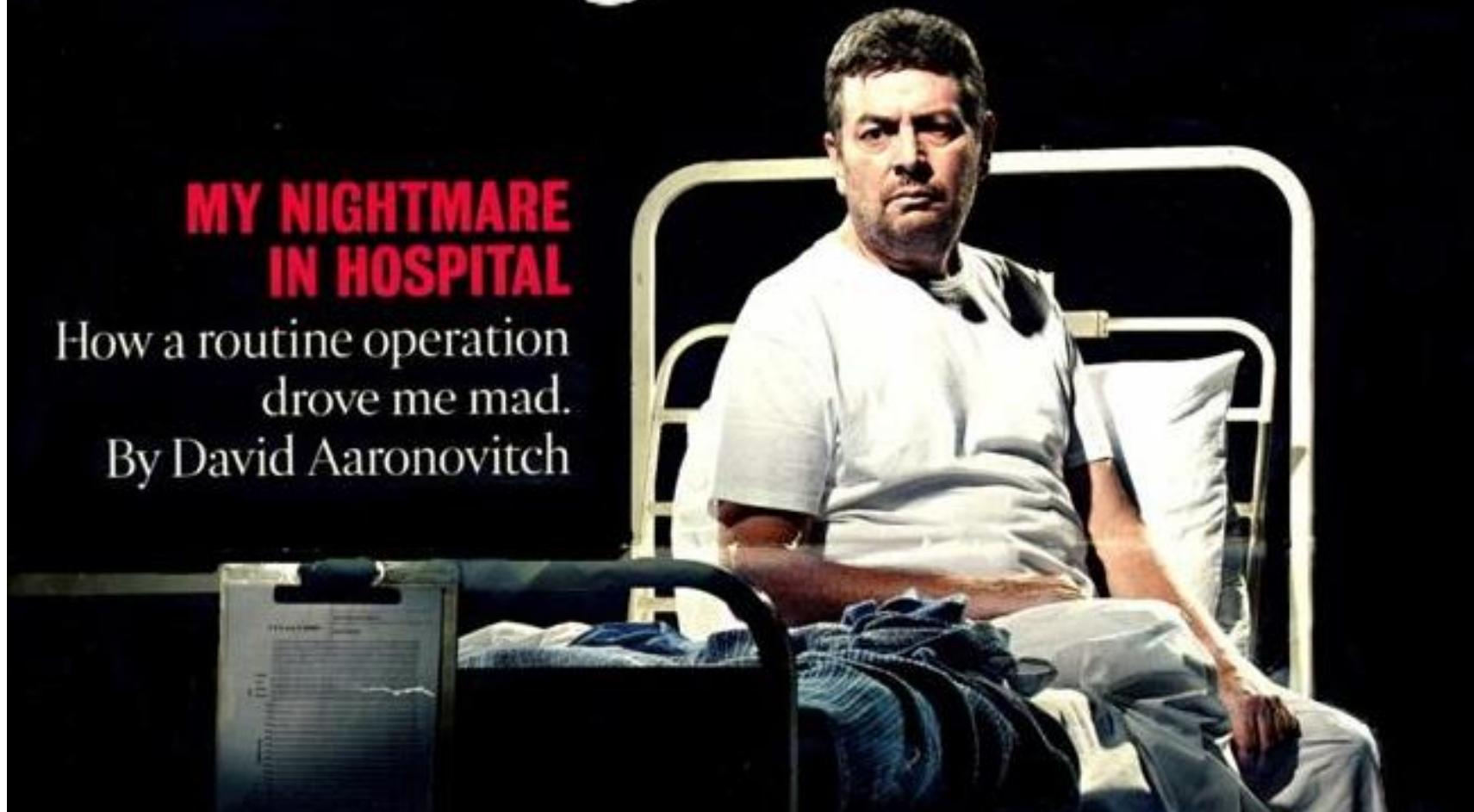
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# MAGAZINE

## MY NIGHTMARE IN HOSPITAL

How a routine operation  
drove me mad.

By David Aaronovitch



**“On Sunday, September 4, I woke up to find that I was no longer mad. It was 2pm, my two brothers were sitting on either side of my hospital bed, my wife between them, the sun was slanting in through the window behind me and the horror that had dominated my life for nearly a week had evaporated. But I will never forget those days and nights of terror and delusion, and will never think about madness in the same way again.”**

**What had happened to me was unlucky. Three weeks earlier I had presented myself at a London hospital to have keyhole surgery to remove a pre-cancerous growth from my colon.**

**Table 3**

Memories of D-O-M items at baseline (T0) and follow-up (T1) interviews.

Variable	Recorded during delirium (N = 30)*	Remembered by patient T0 (N = 15)**	Remembered by patient at follow-up (N = 12)
Sustained attention (N, %)	30 (100)	10 (33)	6 (20)
Shifting attention (N, %)	30 (100)	9 (30)	6 (20)
Orientation (N, %)	30 (100)	7 (23)	5 (17)
Consciousness (N, %)	26 (87)	8 (27)	3 (10)
Apathy (N, %)	25 (83)	9 (30)	6 (20)
Hypokinesia/psychomotor retardation (N, %)	28 (93)	5 (17)	6 (20)
Incoherence (N, %)	30 (100)	6 (20)	2 (6)
Fluctuation in functioning (N, %)	30 (100)	6 (20)	2 (6)
Restlessness (N, %)	16 (53)	7 (23)	3 (10)
Delusions (N, %)	16 (53)	6 (20)	2 (6)
Hallucinations (N, %)	15 (50)	4 (13)	3 (10)
Anxiety/fear (N, %)	17 (57)	6 (20)	6 (20)

\* Items recorded during delirium assessment by the investigators in the 30 patients evaluated at the first evaluation after delirium resolution.

\*\* Items reported by the patients at the baseline (T0) and follow-up (T1) interview. If patients remembered being confused then the neuropsychologists asked patients if they could recall experiencing any symptoms included on the D-O-M.

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Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

## Journal of Psychosomatic Research



# Delirium superimposed on dementia: A quantitative and qualitative evaluation of informal caregivers and health care staff experience

Alessandro Morandi <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Elena Lucchi <sup>a,b</sup>, Renato Turco <sup>a,b</sup>, Sara Morghen <sup>a,b</sup>, Fabio Guerini <sup>a,b</sup>, Rossana Santi <sup>a,b</sup>, Simona Gentile <sup>a,b</sup>, David Meagher <sup>c</sup>, Philippe Voyer <sup>d</sup>, Donna M. Fick <sup>e</sup>, Eva M. Schmitt <sup>f</sup>, Sharon K. Inouye <sup>fg</sup>, Marco Trabucchi <sup>b,h</sup>, Giuseppe Bellelli <sup>b,ij</sup>

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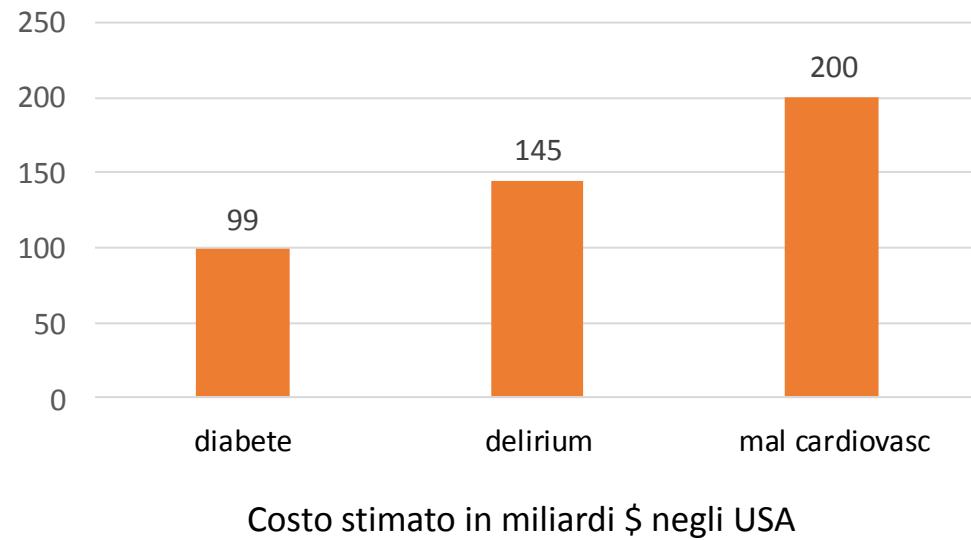
↑ 2x Mortalità intraospedaliera



↑ Durata degenza più elevata  
di 5-10 giorni

Ogni giorno di delirium ↑ mortalità  
A 6 mesi del 17%

↑ 8x Rischio più elevato di deficit  
cognitivo/demenza

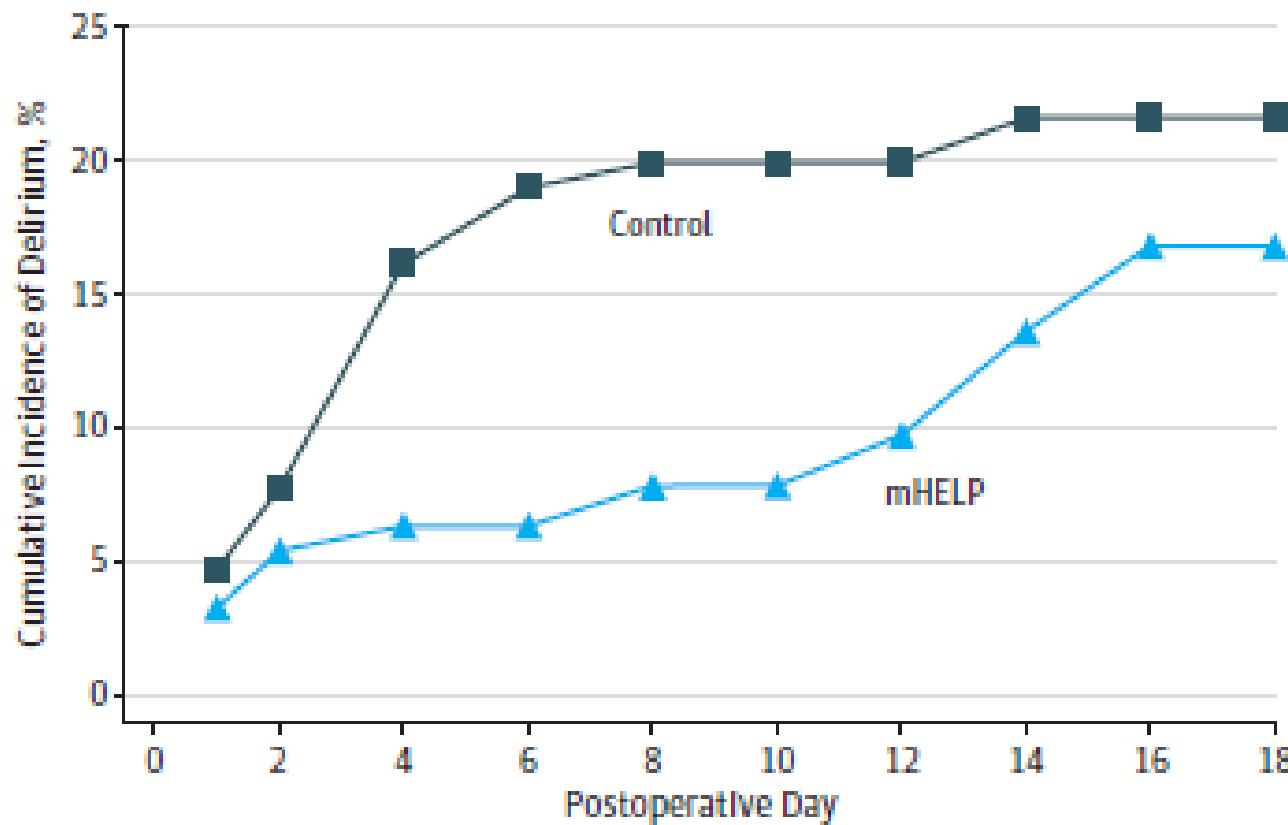


Inouye SK, Lancet 2014; Davis D, Brain 2012; Leslie D, Arch Intern Med 2008;  
Flaherty J 2011; Bellelli et al, J Am Geriatr Soc 2014;

## Effect on Del in Pati A Clus

Oral and Nutri

1. Daily oral care
    - Facial and dental hygiene
    - The tongue
    - Ask patient to do mouth puffing exercise
    - Ask patient to rinse mouth inside a cup and spit it out on one side to see if it is clear
    - Ask patient to brush teeth
  2. Diet education
    - Dumping syndrome
    - Diet after surgery
    - Tips for diet
  3. Encourage patients to take their medications as prescribed



The cumulative incidence of delirium was defined as the probability of the development of delirium during hospitalization. Data on patients were censored at the time of discharge or death. The difference between the groups was significant ( $\chi^2 = 5.87$ ;  $P = .02$  by the log-rank test). Because of the smaller sample sizes, the figure does not extend beyond 18 days. mHELP indicates modified Hospital Elder Life Program.

**....ma quanto è diagnosticato il  
delirium nella pratica clinica?**

# Current problems in preventing delirium: recognition of delirium

**Table 2**  
Characteristics of patients included in REPOSI 2010 and 2012, in general and according to the ICD-9 diagnosis of delirium.

	Total sample (n = 2521)	Yes delirium (n = 72)	No delirium (n = 2449)	p-Value	
Age (years), mean (SD)	79.1 (7.3)	83.7 (6.7)	78.9 (7.3)	<.0001	
Females, n (%)	1281 (50.8)	49 (68.1)	1232 (50.3)	.003	
Marital status, <sup>a</sup> n (%)	Single (unmarried, divorced, separated) Married Widow(er)	224 (9.1) 1318 (53.6) 918 (37.3)	3 (4.2) 23 (32.4) 45 (63.4)	221 (9.3) 1295 (54.2) 873 (36.5)	<.0001
Nursing home residence prior to current hospitalization, n (%)	66 (2.6)	8 (11.1)	58 (2.4)	<.0001	
Patients hospitalized in the 6 months prior to current admission, n (%)	764 (30.3)	20 (27.8)	744 (30.4)	.64	
<i>Health status</i>					
CIRS index of disease severity, on admission, mean (SD)	1.6 (0.3)	1.7 (0.3)	1.6 (0.3)	0.50	
CIRS index of comorbidity, on admission, mean (SD)	3.0 (1.8)	3.1 (1.7)	3.0 (1.8)	0.36	
Drugs on admission, means (SD)	5.3 (2.9)	5.1 (2.8)	5.3 (3.0)	0.52	
Patients with ≥5 drugs on admission, n (%)	1463 (58.0)	40 (55.6)	1423 (58.1)	0.67	
Patients with antipsychotics on admission, n (%)	88 (3.5)	11 (15.3)	77 (3.1)	<.0001	
Patients with benzodiazepines on admission, n (%)	339 (13.4)	11 (15.3)	328 (13.4)	0.64	
Patients with antidepressants on admission, n (%)	274 (10.8)	19 (26.4)	255 (10.4)	<.0001	
Patients with dementia (recorded diagnosis), n (%)	196 (7.8)	28 (38.9)	168 (6.9)	<.0001	
SBT, mean (SD)	9.5 (8.0)	18.0 (8.7)	9.3 (7.8)	<.0001	
Length of hospital stay, median (IQR) <sup>b</sup>	9 (6-14)	10 (6-15)	9 (6-14)	0.54	
In-hospital mortality, n (%)	76 (3.0)	2 (2.8)	74 (3.0)	0.91	

Data are given as means (SD), median (interquartile ranges, IQR) or number (%). SBT = Short Blessed Test; CIRS = Cumulative Illnesses Rating Severity scale. Delirium is intended according to ICD-9 diagnosis. p-Value = significance between patients with and without ICD-9 defined delirium.

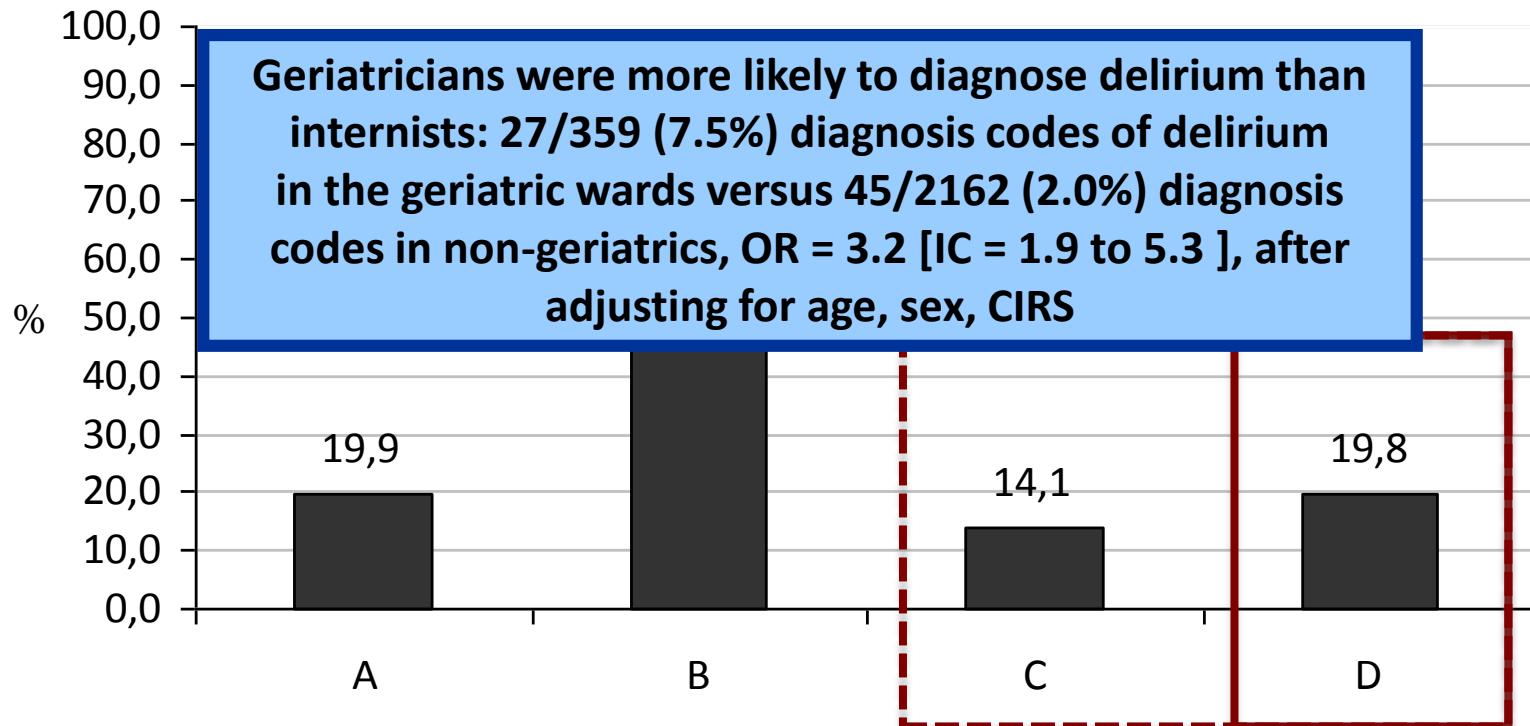
<sup>a</sup> N = 2460.

<sup>b</sup> Wilcoxon test.

2.9%

# Distribution of clusters of SBT neurocognitive disorders (none, single and combined) in the study

Bellelli et al 2015, Eur J Intern Med 2015



Group SBT A =patients without neurocognitive disorders;

Group SBT B =patients with neurocognitive disorder only in one domain (i.e., attention, memory and orientation alone) + those with a combined disorder in orientation and memory;

Group SBT C =patients with neurocognitive disorder in attention and in either orientation or memory;

Group SBT D =patients with combined neurocognitive disorders in attention, orientation and memory;

# **Perché una sottodiagnosi?**

# Il problema della terminologia

- stato confusionale acuto
- sindrome organica cerebrale
- psicosi post-operatoria
- encefalopatia settica o metabolica
- agitazione
- stato di ottundimento (sopore)
- stato crepuscolare

# Nurses' Recognition of Delirium and Its Symptoms

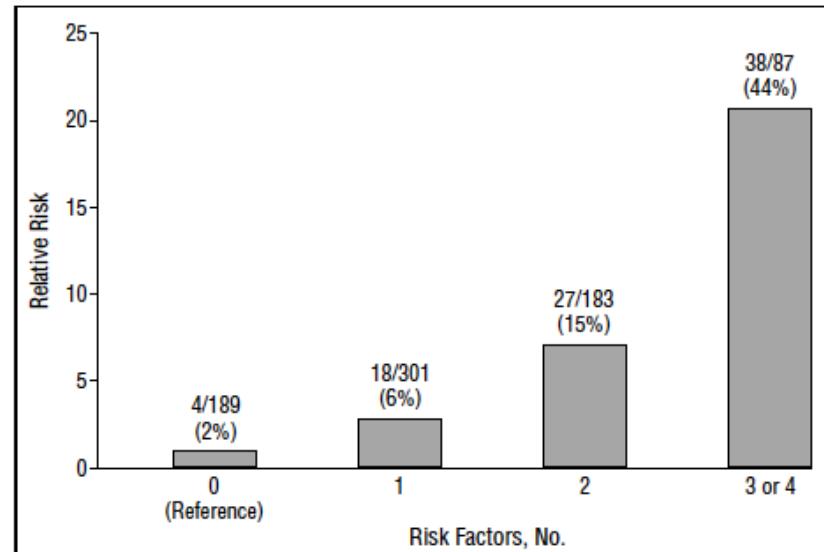
## Comparison of Nurse and Researcher Ratings

Sharon K. Inouye, MD, MPH; Marquis D. Foreman, PhD, RN; Lorraine C. Mion, PhD, RN;  
Karol H. Katz, MS; Leo M. Cooney, Jr, MD



**Table 5. Final Independent Risk Factors Associated With Underrecognition of Delirium by Nurses in 760 Patients\***

Variable	Adjusted OR (95% CI)
Hypoactive delirium	7.4 (4.2-12.9)
Age $\geq 80$ y	2.8 (1.7-4.7)
Vision impairment	2.2 (1.2-4.0)
Dementia	2.1 (1.2-3.7)



# Delirium o demenza: perché una diagnosi differenziale

- “It is important to distinguish delirium from dementia, as **the two syndromes carry different prognostic implications**. It is a grave error to attach **the label of senile dementia to a patient suffering only from delirium**, yet such **misdiagnosis is not uncommon and may cause disastrous consequences for the patient and his or her family**. To avoid misdiagnosis one needs to consider the evolution of the patient’s symptoms over time as well as his or her behavior and cognitive performance at the time of examination”

Lipowski ZJ, Am J Psychiatry 1983  
Lipowski ZJ, NEJM 1989

# Il progetto Delirium Day

“Delirium Day”: a nationwide point prevalence study of delirium in older hospitalized patients using an easy standardized diagnostic tool



Giuseppe Bellelli<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Alessandro Morandi<sup>3,4</sup>, Simona G. Di Santo<sup>5</sup>, Andrea Mazzone<sup>6</sup>, Antonio Cherubini<sup>7</sup>, Enrico Mossello<sup>8</sup>, Mario Bo<sup>9</sup>, Angelo Bianchetti<sup>10</sup>, Renzo Rozzini<sup>11</sup>, Ermellina Zanetti<sup>2</sup>, Massimo Musicco<sup>12,13</sup>, Alberto Ferrari<sup>14,15</sup>, Nicola Ferrara<sup>16,17,18</sup> and Marco Trabucchi<sup>3,19,20</sup> on behalf of the Italian Study Group on Delirium (ISGoD)



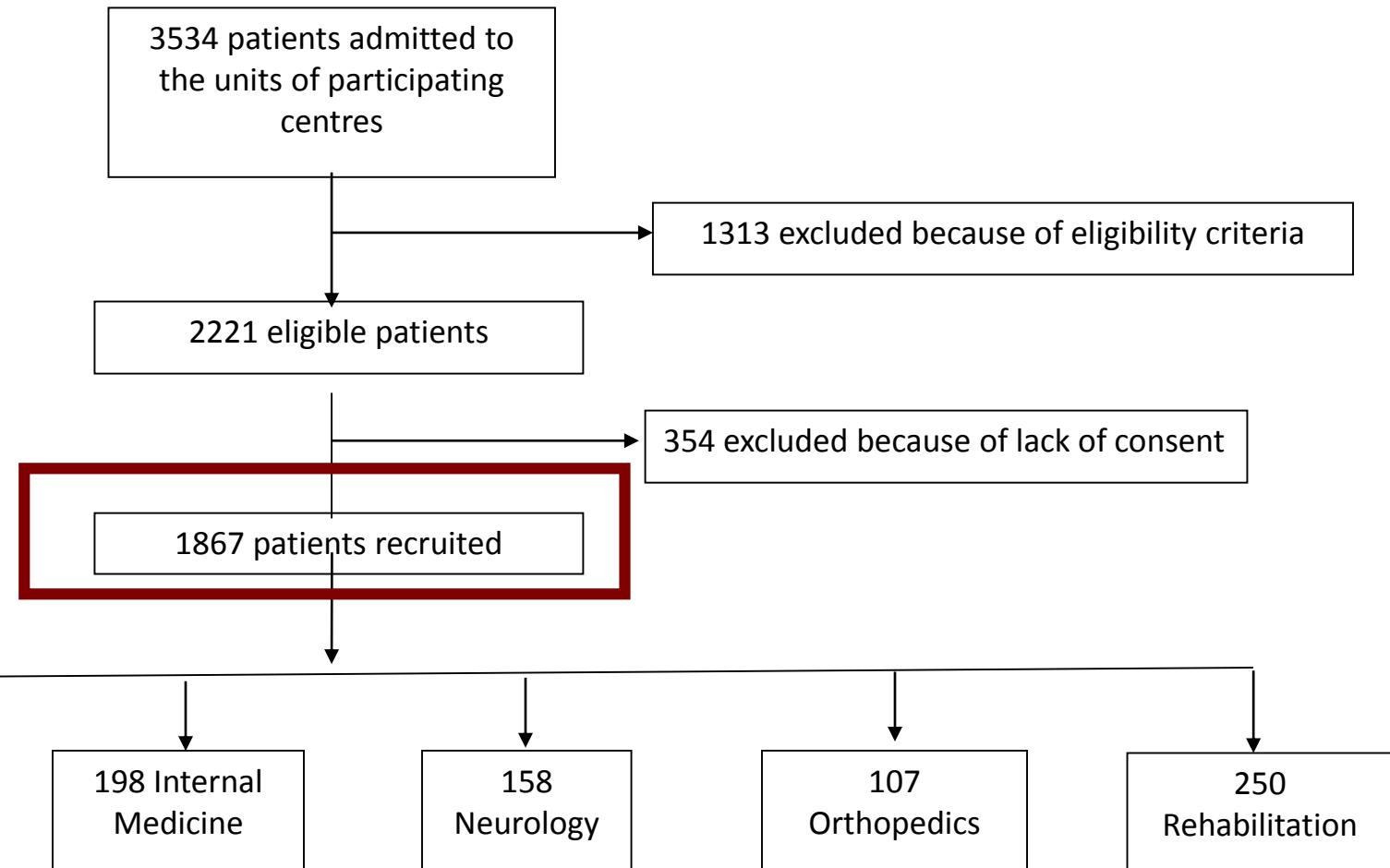
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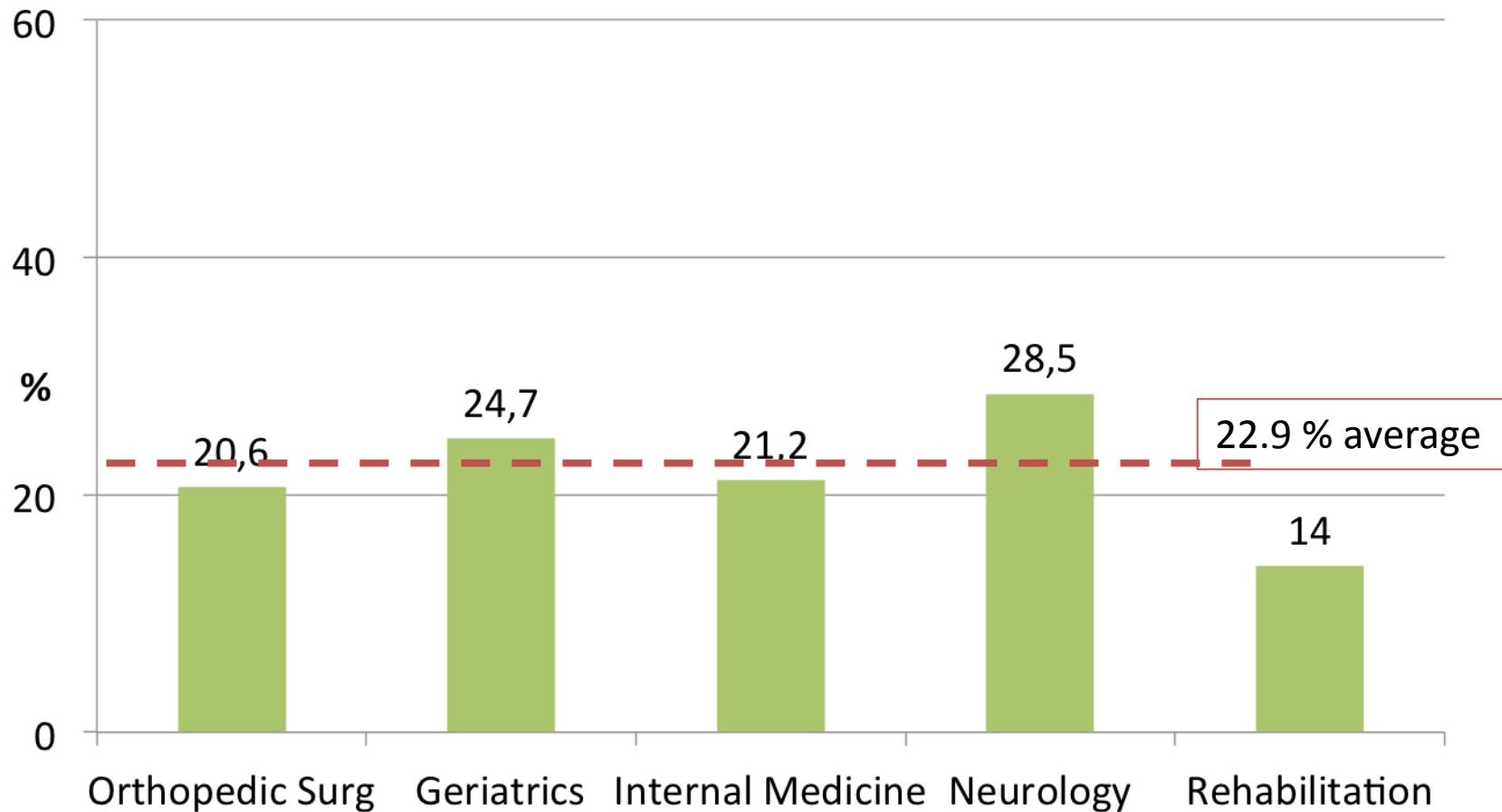
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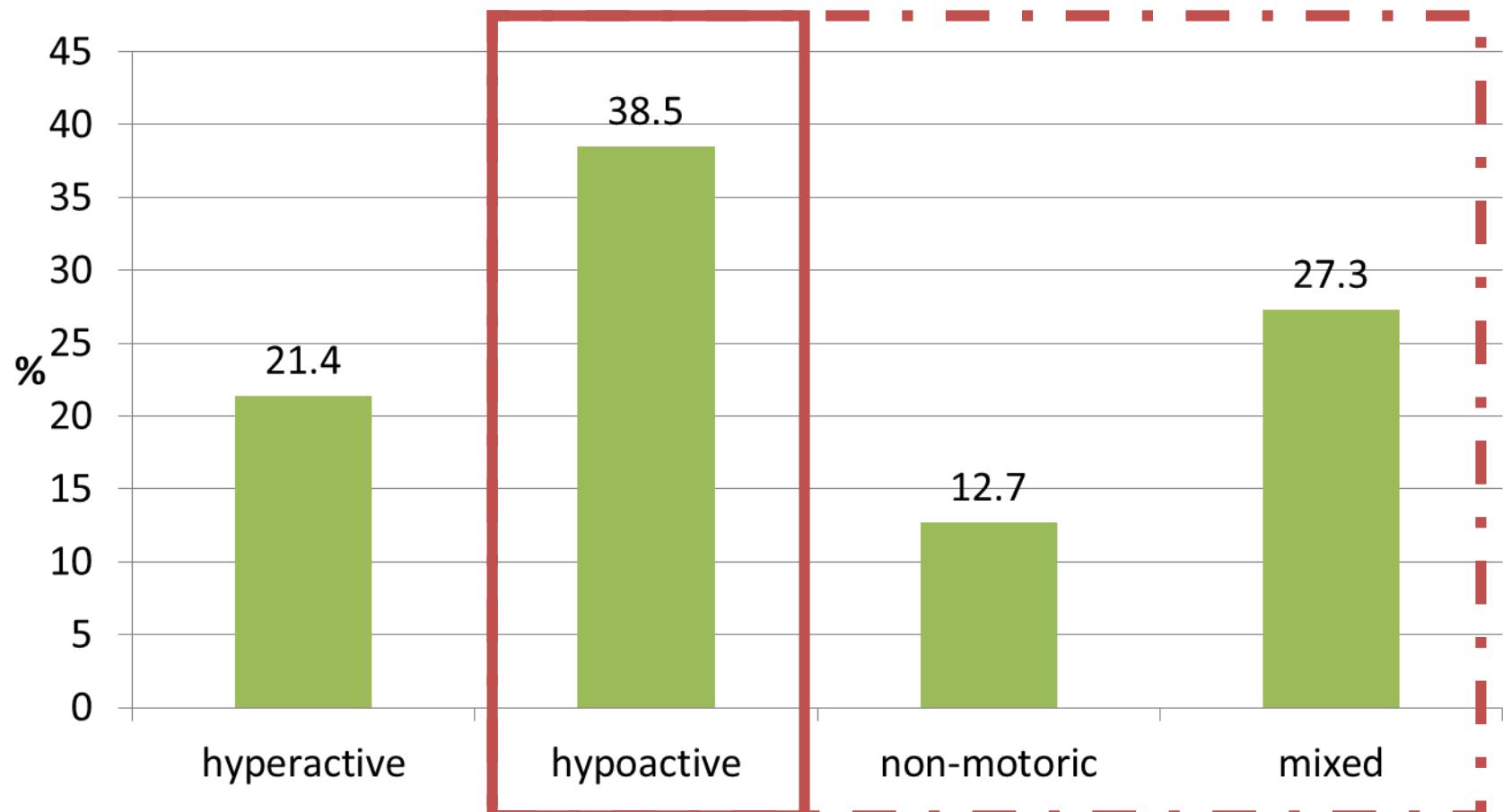
# Disposition of the patients in the study



## Figure 2- Proportion of patients with delirium according to the acute hospital ward's type



# Delirium Motor Subtype scale scores (275 patients with 4AT score $\geq 4$ )



# Delirium Day 2016



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alla SIN per le Demenze

# Delirium Day: Obiettivi

- Rilevalore la prevalenza nazionale di delirium nei pazienti ultrasessantacinquenni ricoverati in ospedale o RSA

Reparti  
medici

Ospedale

Reparti  
chirurgici

Pronto  
Soccorso

Setting  
riabilitativi

RSA

# Criteri inclusione/esclusione

- Tutti i pazienti con età > 65 anni, ricoverati presso i centri partecipanti dalle 00:00 alle 23:59 del giorno indice (28 Settembre 2016) e consenzienti sono stati considerati potenzialmente eleggibili
- Criteri di esclusione: coma, afasia.

**[1] ALLERTA**

Riguarda pazienti che possono essere considerati in stato soporoso (per esempio pazienti per il quale sia difficile svegliarsi e/o che sono evidentemente soporosi durante questo test) oppure agitati/iperattivi. Osservare il paziente. Se dorme, provare a sveglierlo, parlandogli, o con un leggero tocco sulla spalla. Chiedere ai pazienti di dichiarare il proprio nome e l'indirizzo della propria abitazione per valutare il livello di collaborazione.

Normale (completamente attento, ma non agitato durante tutta la valutazione)	0
Moderata sonnolenza per meno di 10 secondi dopo il risveglio, poi normale	0
Livello di attenzione evidentemente anomalo	4



**IL 4A Test: strumento di screening per il deficit cognitivo e il delirium**

**[2] AMT4**

Età, data di nascita, luogo (nome dell'ospedale e dell'edificio), anno corrente

Nessun errore	0
1 errore	1

2

**4 o più: possibile delirium +/- deterioramento cognitivo (necessarie informazioni più dettagliate);**

**[3] ATTENZ**

Chiedere al paziente  
Per aiutare la c

Mesi dell'anno

**1-3: possibile deterioramento cognitivo (altri test necessari);**  
**0: improbabile delirium o deterioramento cognitivo (ma delirium può essere presente se il punto 4 è incompleto)**

**[4] ACUTO CAMBIAMENTO O DECORSO FLUTTUANTE**

Dimostrazione di un evidente cambiamento o di un andamento fluttuante nei seguenti domini: attenzione, comprensione o altre funzioni mentali (ad esempio ossessioni e/o allucinazioni) che sono comparse nelle ultime 2 settimane e che sono ancora presenti nelle ultime 24 ore

No	0
Si	4

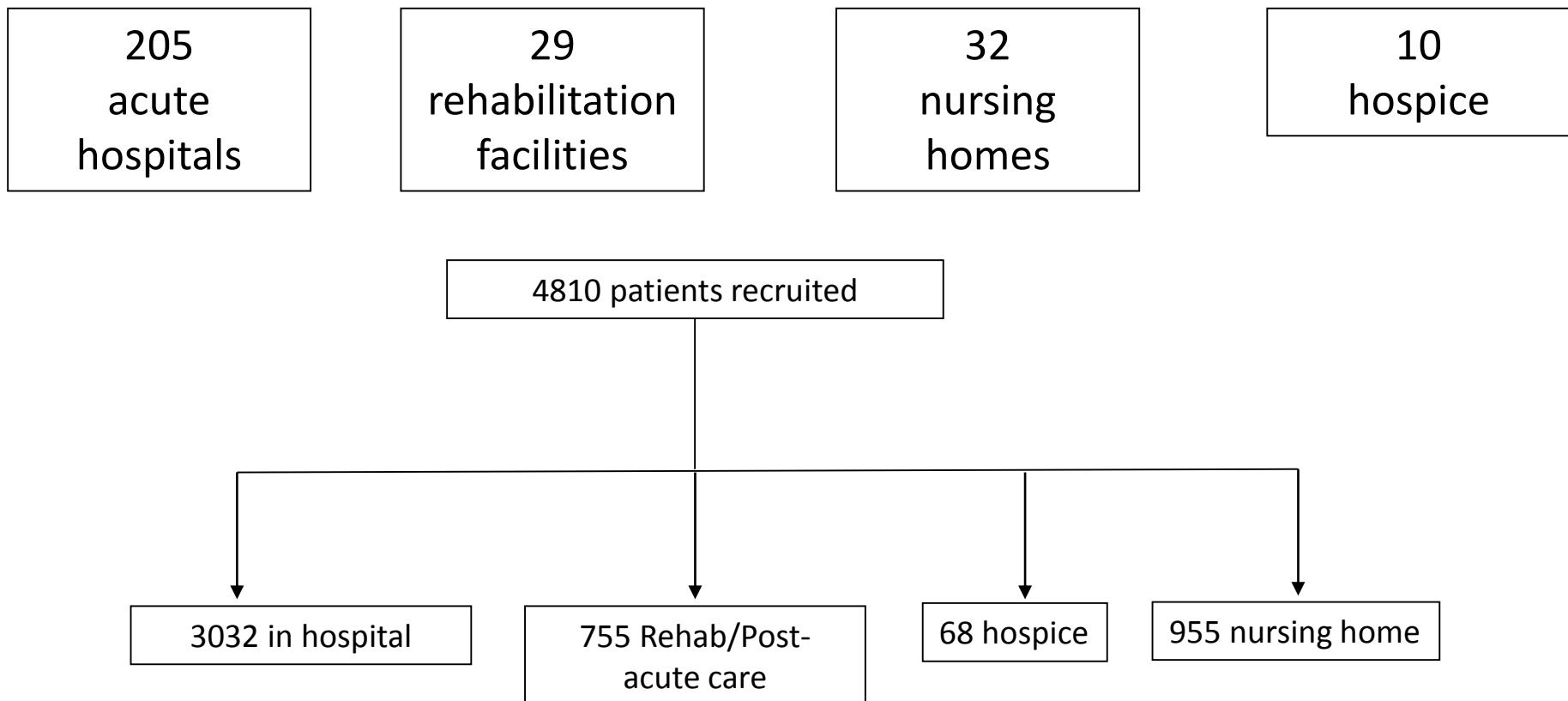
4 o più: possibile delirium +/- deterioramento cognitivo

1-3: possibile deterioramento cognitivo

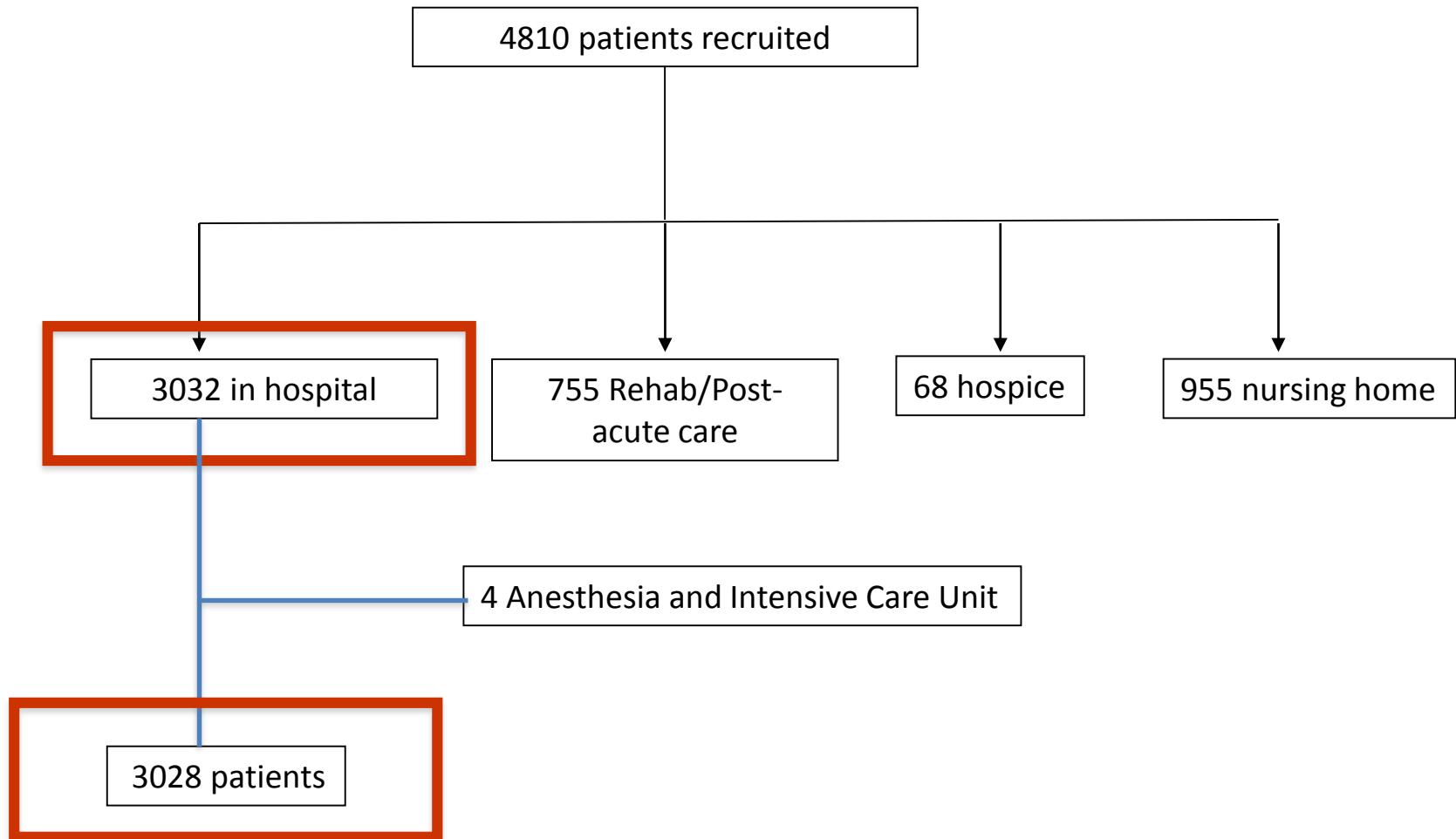
0: improbabile il delirium e/o deterioramento cognitivo (ma il delirium può essere presente se il punto 4 è incompleto)

**PUNTEGGIO 4AT**

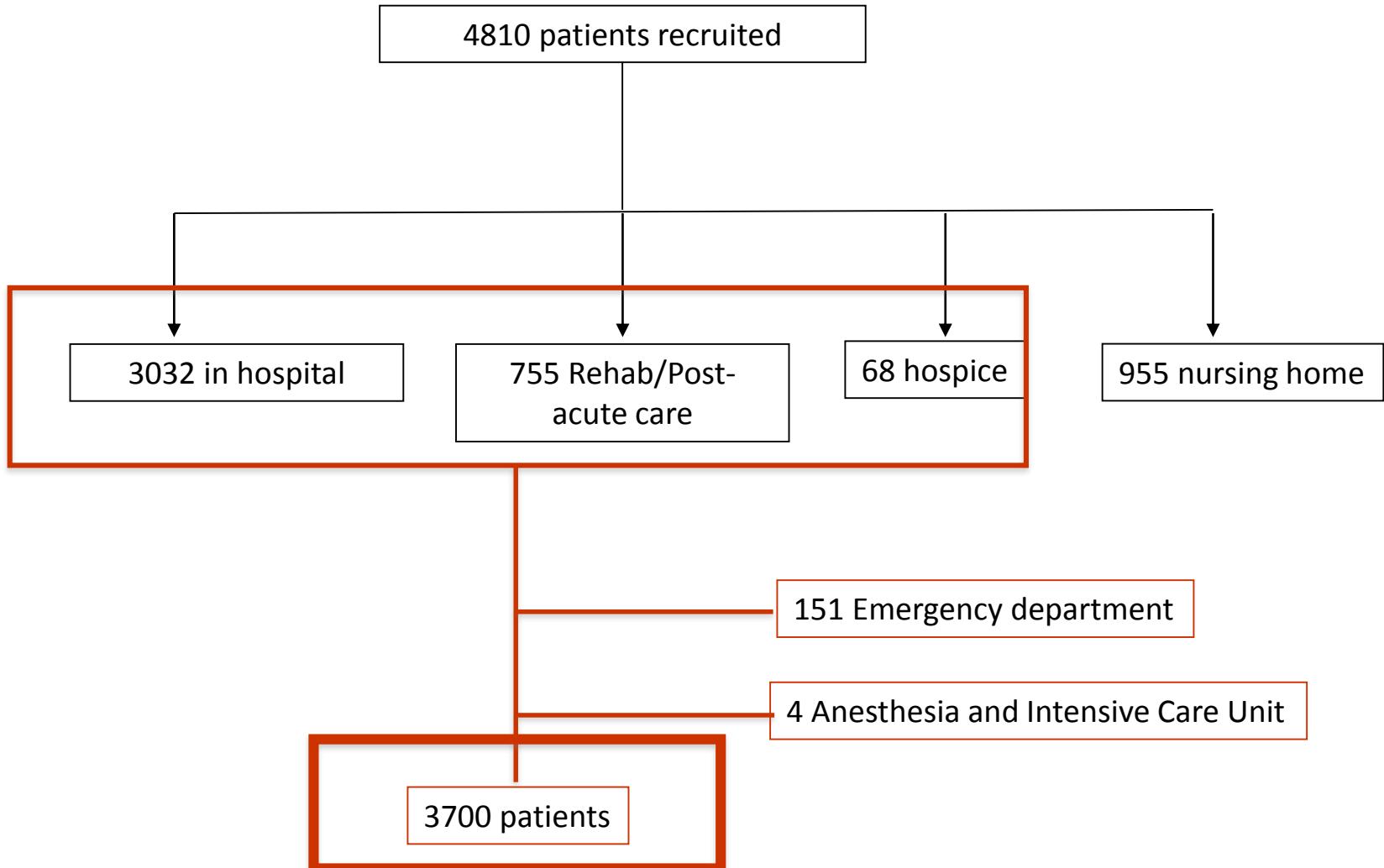
# Disposition of the centres and the patients in the study



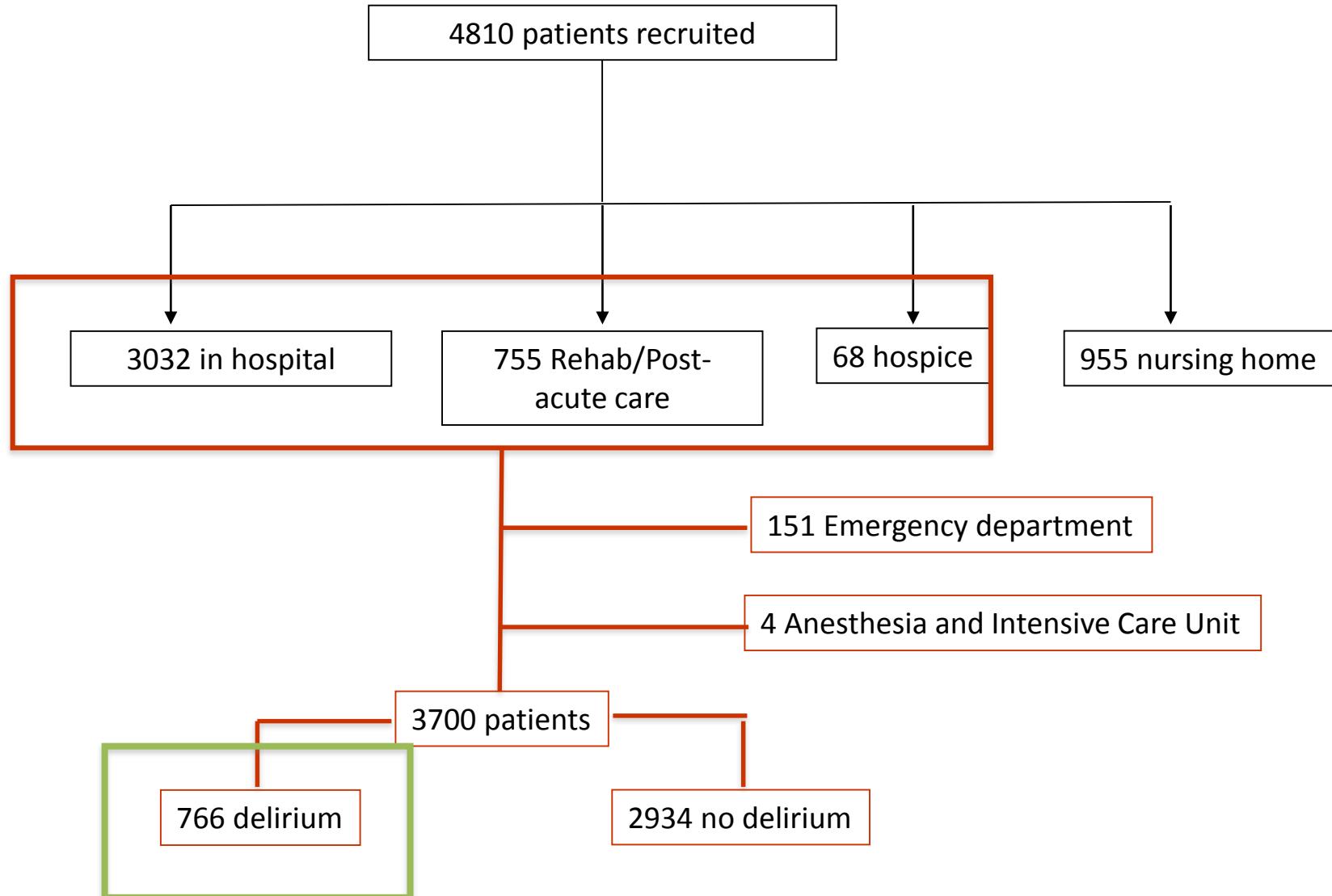
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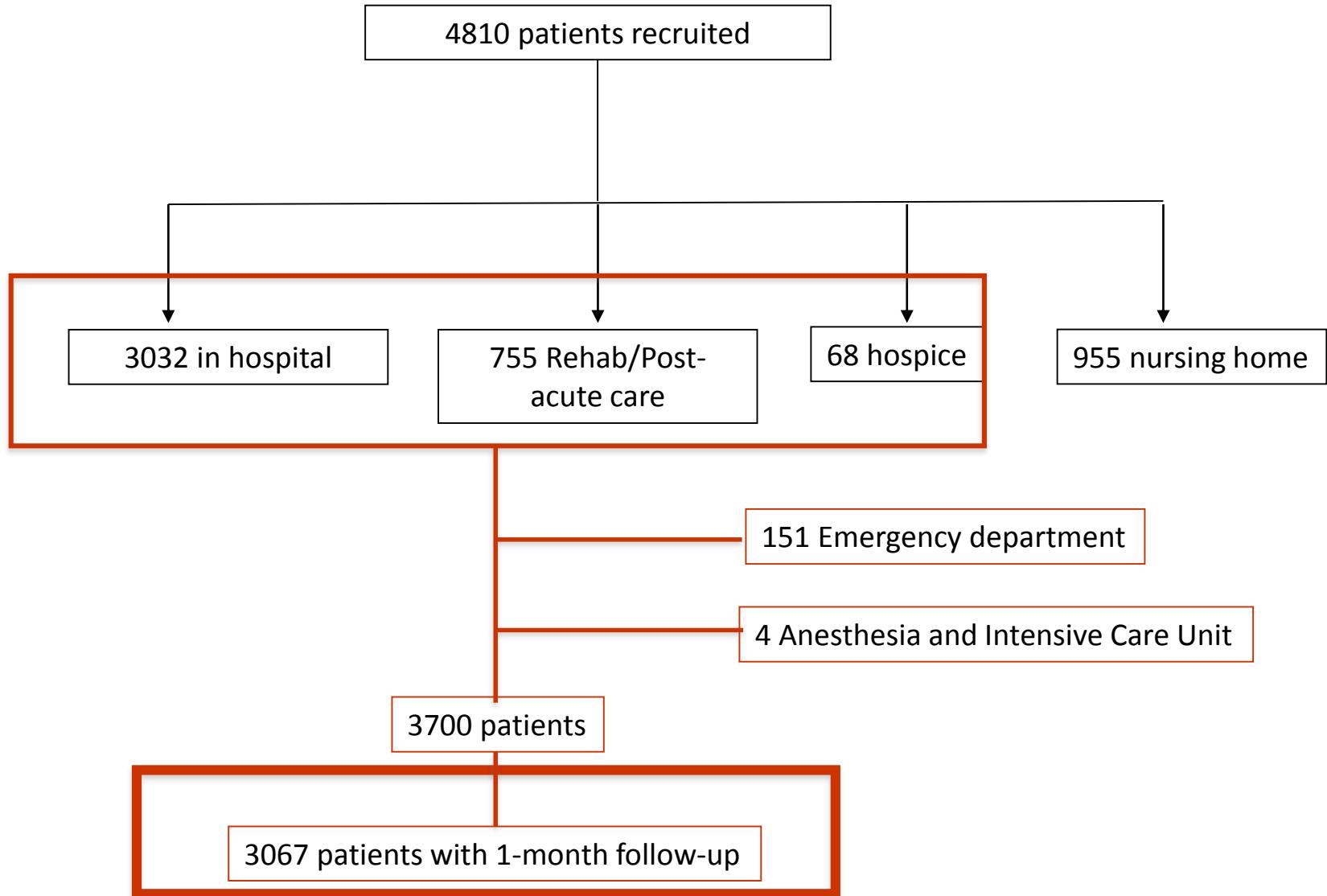
# Disposition of the patients in the study



# Disposition of the patients in the study



# Disposition of the patients in the study



# Delirium Day 2017



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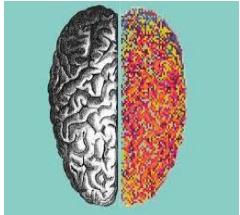


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INTERNSITI



**SIAARTI**  
PRO VITA CONTRA DOLOREM SEMPER





**27/09/2017 Delirium Day**

**Per info scrivi a  
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