



# Behavioral Disorders

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2013



## Definition

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Behavioral disorders exist when a person exhibits a behavior that is outside the norm. In other words, substantially different than is acceptable to society.



## Physical causes

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- Hypoglycemia
- Hypoxia
- Hypovolemia
- CVA
- Head trauma
- Drugs or alcohol
- Hypothermia
- Hyperthermia
- Psychiatric causes



## Psychiatric causes

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- Major depression
- Manic depression
- Schizophrenia



## Assessment

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- Identify yourself and your role
- ***Thoroughly assess to rule out other causes!***



## Signs and symptoms

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- Panic, anxiety
- Unusual appearance
- Agitated
- Unusual speech patterns
- Bizarre behavior or thought patterns
- Suicidal gestures
  - **If they've tried before, they will again**
- Self destructive behavior
- Aggression
- Violent behavior



## Treatment

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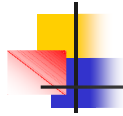
- **Scene and personal safety!**
- **Make sure that the patient does not get between you and the exit to safety**
- ABCs
- Place patient in position of comfort
- **Consider other causes of abnormal behavior!**



## Treatment

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- Calm conversation – attempt to develop a rapport with the patient
- Restrain if needed – have PD there prior to restraining
  - **Ensure that ABCs are not compromised!**
- Transport
- Document the reason for restraining on the ACR



## Some common sense ideas

- **Get rid of nonessential people**
  - **EMTs**
  - **Bystanders**
- Involve family only if it will help
- **Never lie to the patient!**
- ***Call for ALS***