

OBJECTIVES FOR WEDNESDAY SEMINARS

Loss of Consciousness

General objective:

The diagnosis and management of the patient with an altered level of consciousness relies on the knowledge of the potential causes, the correlation of simple clinical signs with relevant neuroanatomy, and the efficient use of diagnostic tests.

Specific Objectives:

Through efficient, focused, data gathering, the student will:

1. Conduct a methodical history and focused physical examination, as well as detailed neurological assessment of the level of consciousness of the patient, including an evaluation of brainstem function.
2. Undertake rational investigations, including specific laboratory and diagnostic imaging modalities indicated in supporting the diagnostic process.
3. Determine the most likely cause for and seriousness of the altered level of consciousness, and outline an appropriate and ethical care plan, including specialist consultation where indicated