



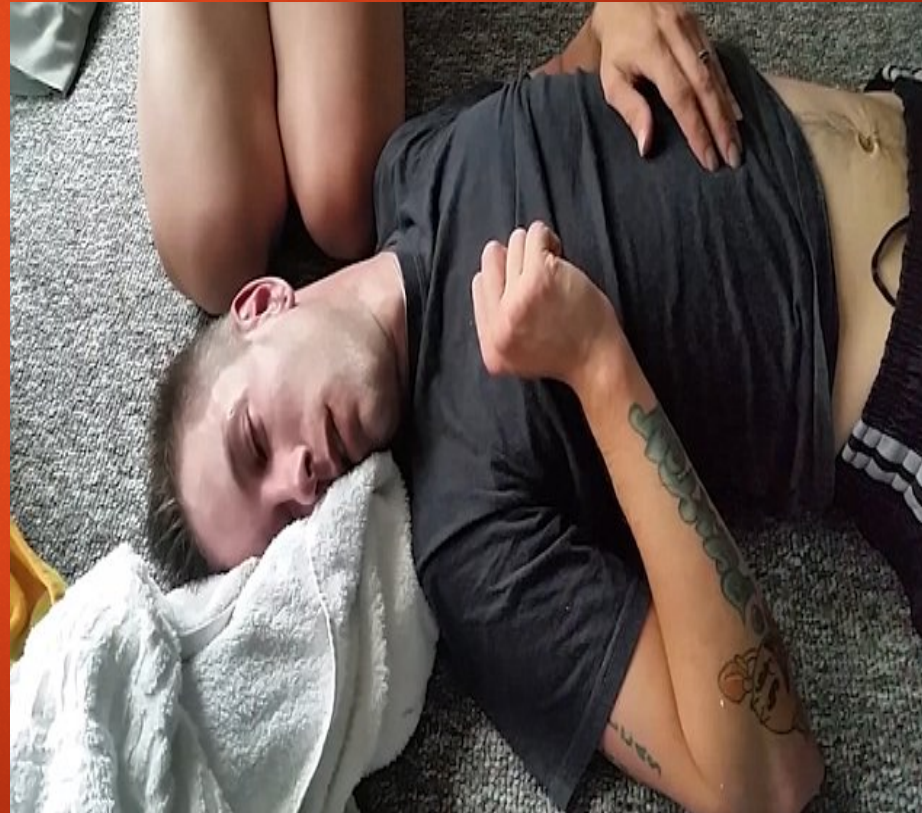
# Medical Conditions That Can Mimic Being Under the Influence.

JOSEPH WOLOSZYN

# Drunk or Not Drunk?

?

?




# Intoxication

Signs & Symptoms?



# Hypoglycemia

(Low Blood Sugar)

- 
- red or flushed skin
  - dizziness
  - disorientation
  - headache pain
  - nausea and vomiting
  - dehydration
  - dry mouth
  - burping or belching
  - fatigue
  - memory and concentration problems
  - mood changes

# Auto Brewery Syndrome

- Gut fermentation syndrome
- Endogenous ethanol fermentation
- “drunkenness disease”
  
- body turns sugary and starchy foods (carbohydrates) into alcohol.
- your body makes — “brews” — alcohol (ethanol) out of the carbohydrates you eat.
  
- drunk without drinking any alcohol
- very drunk after only drinking a small amount of alcohol (such as two beers)

# Hypoglycemia

## “Sign & Symptoms” ADA web site

- Feeling shaky
- **Being nervous or anxious**
- Sweating, chills and clamminess
- **Irritability or impatience**
- **Confusion**
- Fast heartbeat
- **Feeling lightheaded or dizzy**
- Hunger
- **Nausea**
- Color draining from the skin (pallor)
- **Feeling sleepy**
- Feeling weak or having no energy
- **Blurred/impaired vision**
- Tingling or numbness in the lips, tongue or cheeks
- Headaches
- **Coordination problems, clumsiness**
- Nightmares or crying out during sleep
- Seizures



# Clues to Hypoglycemia

- Glucose tablets

- Gel tube

- 4 ounces (1/2 cup) of juice or regular soda (not diet)

- 1 tablespoon of sugar, honey, or corn syrup

- Hard candies, jellybeans or gumdrops

# Common Items on Hand

## Glucometer



## Glucose / Dex



## Oral Glucose



# Drunk or Not Drunk?

- Exhaustion
- Confusion
- Fear and anxiety
- Agitation
- Frustration
- Shame or embarrassment
- Slow to respond or not able to respond right away
- Memory loss
- Depression/sadness
- ▶ [Verywellhealth.com](https://www.verywellhealth.com)



# Seizures

- **Temporary confusion**
- **A staring spell**
- **Uncontrollable jerking movements of the arms and legs**
- **Loss of consciousness or awareness**
- **Cognitive or emotional symptoms, such as fear, anxiety or deja vu**

# Focal Seizures

- ▶ Focal seizures result from abnormal electrical activity in one area of your brain. Focal seizures can occur with or without loss of consciousness:
- **Focal seizures with impaired awareness.** These seizures involve a change or loss of consciousness or awareness that feels like being in a dream. You may seem awake, but you stare into space and do not respond normally to your environment or you perform repetitive movements. These may include hand rubbing, mouth movements, repeating certain words or walking in circles. You may not remember the seizure or even know that it occurred.
- **Focal seizures without loss of consciousness.** These seizures may alter emotions or change the way things look, smell, feel, taste or sound, but you don't lose consciousness. You may suddenly feel angry, joyful or sad. Some people have nausea or unusual feelings that are difficult to describe. These seizures may also result in difficulty speaking, involuntary jerking of a body part, such as an arm or a leg, and spontaneous sensory symptoms such as tingling, dizziness and seeing flashing lights.

# Generalized seizures

Seizures that appear to involve all areas of the brain are called generalized seizures. Different types of generalized seizures include:

- **Absence seizures.** petit mal seizures, often in children, characterized by staring into space or by subtle body movements (eye blinking or lip smacking). Usually last for five to 10 seconds but may happen up to 100's of times per day. May occur in clusters and cause a brief loss of awareness.
- **Tonic seizures.** Stiffening of your muscles. Usually affect muscles in your back, arms and legs and may cause lose consciousness.
- **Atonic seizures.** AKA drop seizures, loss of muscle control.
- **Clonic seizures.** Associated with repeated or rhythmic, jerking muscle movements. Usually affect the neck, face and arms on both sides of the body.
- **Myoclonic seizures.** Usually appear as sudden brief jerks or twitches of your arms and legs. There is often no loss of consciousness.
- **Tonic-clonic seizures.** Tonic-clonic seizures, AKA grand mal seizures, the most dramatic type of epileptic seizure and can cause an abrupt loss of consciousness, body stiffening and shaking, and sometimes loss of bladder control or biting your tongue. They may last for several minutes.

# 4 Stages of a Seizure

[SEIZURES: WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR BODY \(WEBMD.COM\)](https://www.webmd.com/epilepsy/epilepsy-what-happens-to-your-body)

# Prodrome

Can tell when a seizure is on the way.

They may notice some signs, known as a “prodrome,” a few hours or even days before one starts.

People who have tonic-clonic (grand mal) seizures seem more likely to have prodrome signs.

- Changes in mood
- Trouble sleeping
- Anxiety
- Problems staying focused
- Feeling lightheaded



# Aura

▶ Happens right before a seizure starts and is a warning that it is about to happen

- Deja vu
- Jamais vu (a feeling that you're seeing something you know well for the first time)
- Vision problems
- Odd smells, sounds, or tastes
- Dizziness
- Numbness or "pins and needles"
- Headache
- Nausea
- Panic
- Feelings of intense fear

# Middle (Ictal)

- Loss of awareness (blacking out)
- Feeling confused
- Memory lapse
- Trouble hearing
- Odd smells or tastes
- Hallucinations (seeing things that aren't really there)
- Seeing flashing lights
- Trouble speaking
- Drooling
- Loss of muscle control
- Twitching
- Repeated movements like lip smacking or chewing
- Body convulsions
- Trouble breathing
- Racing heart

# “Postictal”

- ▶ Final stage,
- ▶ Brain trying to get back to normal.
- ▶ Body begins to relax. Physical aftereffects set in.
- ▶ Length of this stage will depend on the type of seizure and parts of the brain involved.
- ▶ Some people start to feel better very quickly, other can be a few hours before they feel back to their normal.

# “Postictal”

- Fatigue
- Headache
- Loss of bladder control
- Loss of bowel control
- Lack of consciousness
- Confusion
- Fear and anxiety
- Trouble walking or writing
- Thirst
- Upset stomach
- Weakness in parts of your body
- Sore muscles



Post ictal Episode  
after seizure 4-20-  
15 - YouTube

# Concussions

## Physical Signs & Symptoms

- Headache
- Ringing in the ears
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fatigue or drowsiness
- Blurry vision

## Other

- **Confusion or feeling as if in a fog**
- **Amnesia surrounding the traumatic event**
- **Dizziness or "seeing stars"**

## Observations

- Temporary loss of consciousness (
- Slurred speech
- Delayed response to questions
- Dazed appearance
- Forgetfulness, asking the same question

# Delayed Reaction

- **Concentration and memory complaints**
- **Irritability and other personality changes**
- **Sensitivity to light and noise**
- **Sleep disturbances**
- **Psychological adjustment problems and depression**
- **Disorders of taste and smell**

# See a Doctor if:

- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- A loss of consciousness lasting longer than 30 seconds
- A headache that gets worse over time
- Fluid or blood draining from the nose or ears
- Vision or eye disturbances, such as pupils that are bigger than normal (dilated pupils) or pupils of unequal sizes
- Ringing in the ears that doesn't go away
- Weakness in the arms or legs
- Appearing very pale for longer than an hour
- Changes in behavior
- Confusion or disorientation
- Obvious difficulty with mental function or physical coordination
- Changes in physical coordination, such as stumbling or clumsiness
- Seizures or convulsions
- Lasting or recurrent dizziness
- Symptoms that worsen over time
- Large head bumps or bruises on areas other than the forehead in children, especially in infants under 12 months of age



# Meningococcal Disease

[EXPERTS WARN SYMPTOMS OF MENW MIMIC DRUG MISUSE OR BEING DRUNK | MENINGITIS RESEARCH FOUNDATION](#)

[MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE CAUSES AND HOW IT SPREADS | CDC](#)



# Can Mimic :

- Influenza
- Food poisoning,
- Drug misuse
- Alcohol intoxication

# Signs & Symptoms

Most Common:

- Fever
- Headache
- Stiff neck

Additional:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Photophobia (eyes being more sensitive to light)
- Altered mental status (confusion)

# Common Mimics

# Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

## Mild TBI

### Physical Symptoms

- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue or drowsiness
- Problems with speech
- Dizziness or loss of balance

### Sensory Symptoms

- Sensory problems, such as blurred vision, ringing in the ears, a bad taste in the mouth or changes in the ability to smell
- Sensitivity to light or sound

### Cognitive, Behavioral & Mental

- Loss of consciousness for a few seconds to a few minutes
- No loss of consciousness, but a state of being dazed, confused or disoriented
- Memory or concentration problems
- Mood changes or mood swings
- Feeling depressed or anxious
- Difficulty sleeping
- Sleeping more than usual

# Stroke

## ▶ F.A.S.T. Warning Signs

- **F = Face Drooping** – Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?
- **A = Arm Weakness** – Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- **S = Speech Difficulty** – Is speech slurred?
- **T = Time to call 911**


## ▶ Other Stroke Symptoms

### ▶ Watch for Sudden:

- **NUMBNESS** or weakness of face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body
- **CONFUSION**, trouble speaking or understanding speech
- **TROUBLE SEEING** in one or both eyes
- **TROUBLE WALKING**, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- **SEVERE HEADACHE** with no known cause

\$800,000 paid to Garden Grove stroke victim mistakenly arrested for DUI – San Bernardino Sun (sbsun.com)

- ▶ Clipped a parked vehicle
- ▶ -didn't stop right away
- ▶ -said she was at the hospital but didn't remember why
- ▶ -15 year old daughter tells OFC. Her mom wasn't feeling well
- ▶ -officer called paramedics and they conclude she needs medical help
- ▶ Woman declines medical treatment
- ▶ “was given a field sobriety test and was examined by a Police Department drug recognition expert”
- ▶ -FST's = Arrest
- ▶ -7 hours in the drunk tank

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- Taken to the hospital
  - diagnosed with a stroke and kept for four days
  - DUI charges after learning that she had marijuana in her system, but no alcohol.
  - The charges were dropped two years later in 2014.

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THE GEO GROUP SETTLED FOR \$300,000 IN 2015. GARDEN GROVE SETTLED RECENTLY FOR \$500,000.



# Stroke was the real diagnosis for accused drunk driver (usatoday.com)

- ▶ Previous head injury
- ▶ Told the trooper she had been drinking
- ▶ Breathalyzer results were 0.0
- ▶ Blood draw – found anti-depressants and seizure meds
- ▶ Could not follow simple instructions
- ▶ Released from jail
- ▶ Wondered around for 5 days
- ▶ Sent to the hospital by Salvation Army staff
- ▶ MRI that resulted in the stroke diagnosis





Questions?