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**A. Caraceni, L. Grassi: Delirium—acute
confusional states in palliative medicine**
Oxford University Press, New York, 2003 (0192631993)

Published online: 20 September 2003
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This is an important book for health care professionals working in palliative care. The topic has been comprehensively treated based on a broad literature search and the clinical experience of the authors. Case reports as well as figures and tables help to illustrate the specific aspects of delirium. A statement in the preface concerning the methods utilized to write the book and on its general organization could have been of help.

The book is well structured and contains an index, which allows a rapid access to the different topics. While most of the relevant issues—such as the various assessment tools and cultural or communicational aspects—are addressed, a specific link to palliative care is sometimes lacking. For example, the lists of the various etiologies of delirium are exhaustive, but a separate and clinically oriented overview of its most frequent causes in palliative care could have been added.

While some of the chapters close with a short and useful conclusion, a summary is missing, especially for the reader who wants to rapidly gain an understanding of what is treated in a specific chapter. The various

studies referenced invite the reader to access the existing literature; a critical appreciation of these studies by the authors could have been important for those who may not be familiar with research and methodological issues.

The nonpharmacological and preventive interventions for delirium are not as prominently treated as its pharmacological management; the economical consequences and a public health perspective are missing. However, all other relevant aspects of delirium are presented in a competent and concise way, and the reader benefits from the sound clinical and scientific experiences of the authors.

In conclusion, this is an important contribution for a better understanding and management of this frequent and neglected disorder. The authors are able to transmit the complexity of delirium and to put it into a broad perspective; still, the readers also receive very pragmatic advice and orientation for their daily clinical practice. The book is very attractive to read and stimulates the reader to think about delirium and many other important aspects of palliative care.

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