



Clinical Features of Alcohol Withdrawal

Minor symptoms

Tremulousness; exaggerated startle; sleep disturbance; diaphoresis; nystagmus; tachycardia; hyperreflexia; hypertension; nausea/vomiting; low grade fever; diarrhea; mild agitation.

Hallucinations

Auditory, visual, or tactile; peaks during REM-sleep rebound; may occur while intoxicated; sensorium otherwise clear unless progression to delirium tremens

Withdrawal seizures

Grand mal; peak occurrence 12-48 hours after last drink; cluster may occur over 3-6 hours, although last seizure occurs more than 6 hours after first in 15%

Delirium tremens

Agitated confusional state with tremulousness, hallucinations, and striking autonomic overactivity; fever in 82%, often associated with intercurrent illness

Adapted table from *Physicians Information and Education Resource (PIER)*, Perioperative Management of Alcohol Abuse module.