

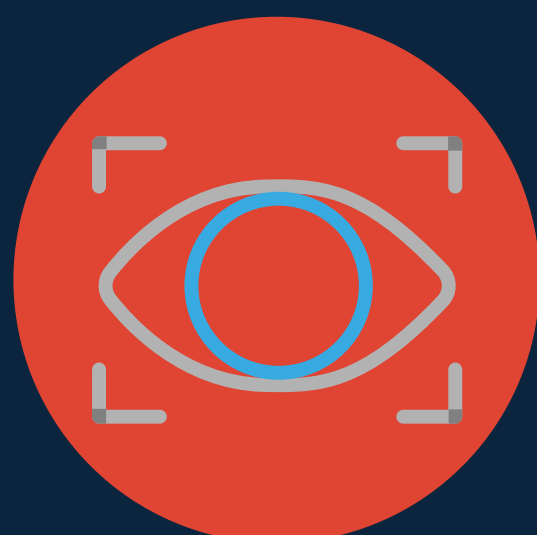
WERNICKES ENCEPHALOPATHY



Wernickes Encephalopathy (WE) is a serious brain condition caused by a severe deficiency of Vitamin B1 (Thiamine). Thiamine deficiency is very common in Alcohol-Use Disorders. WE usually has a rapid onset and is considered a medical emergency. Untreated, it can lead to death in 20% of cases and in 80% of survivors, can cause long lasting brain injury (Korsakoffs Amnesic Syndrome)

HAVE YOU CHECKED?

Any one of the following should prompt suspicion for WE and lead to urgent parenteral administration of Thiamine (Pabrinex)



Eyes Signs

Oculomotor abnormalities, namely ophthalmoplegia and nystagmus. This can present as vision changes such as abnormal eye movements (back and forth jerking movements), double vision, eyelid drooping.



Gait

Cerebellar dysfunction - This can cause loss or weakness in muscle coordination and result in gait ataxia (wide based gait).



Mental State

Altered mental state, ranging from subtle cognitive impairment to a global confusional state or coma.