



Postoperative systematic delirium screening is recommended at least once per nursing shift.

Class (Strength) of Recommendation	Class I (Strong)
Level (Quality) of Evidence	Level B-NR (Non-randomized)

Main Points

- Current contemporary reports suggest up to 20% of cardiac surgery patients have postoperative delirium (nearly twice the rate observed in other elective non-cardiac procedures).
- Delirium in critically ill patients is recognized as a major public health problem occurring in up to 50% of postoperative cardiac surgery patients, and costing billions annually in the United States alone.
- The occurrence of delirium after cardiac surgery has been associated with a reduced in-hospital and long-term survival, freedom from hospital readmission, and reduced cognitive and functional recovery.
- An optimal balance of analgesia, sedation, anxiety, and delirium management in the ICU, may result in reduced pain, decreased anxiety, managed delirium, enhanced quality of sleep, and improved recovery.

Key References

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