

## Conditions Easily Confused with AWS

Since certain medical and surgical conditions can result in symptom complexes that may confuse the clinician into a misdiagnosis of Alcohol Withdrawal Syndrome, AWS is a diagnosis of exclusion. Alternate diagnoses should always be entertained and, if indicated by the clinical setting, ruled out before attempting to treat AWS. The table below summarizes medical and surgical conditions which can be misinterpreted as manifestations of AWS.

Type A	Type B	Type C
Acute GI Bleed	Acute GI Bleed	
Angina	Angina	
		Cerebrovascular Accident
Congestive Heart Failure	Congestive Heart Failure	Congestive Heart Failure
	Dissecting Aortic Aneurysm	
		Electrolyte Disturbances
Generalized Anxiety Disorder		
		Hepatic Encephalopathy
Hyperthyroidism	Hyperthyroidism	Hyperthyroidism
Hypoglycemia	Hypoglycemia	Hypoglycemia
		Hypothyroidism
Hypoxemia	Hypoxemia	Hypoxemia
		Hypercarbia
	Infection	Infection
		Intoxication/Anti-cholinergic
		Intoxication/Antihistamine
Intoxication/Cocaine	Intoxication/Cocaine	Intoxication/Cocaine

Type A	Type B	Type C
		Intoxication/Sedative
		Intoxication/Tricyclic
Pulmonary Embolus	Pulmonary Embolus	Pulmonary Embolus
	Status Epilepticus	Status Epilepticus
		Subdural Hematoma
	Uremia	Uremia
Volume Depletion	Volume Depletion	Volume Depletion
		Wernicke's Encephalopathy
		Closed Head Injury
		Marchiafava-Bignami Disease
		Schizophrenia
		Bipolar Disorder