**Table 1**. **Differentiating features of delirium, dementia and depression**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Feature | Delirium | Dementia | Depression |
| onset | acute | insidious | acute or insidious |
| course | fluctuating | progressive | stable or fluctuating |
| duration | days to months | months to years | months to years |
| consciousness | altered | intact except in advanced dementia | intact |
| complaints of memory loss | absent | variable | usually present |
| psychomotor change | increased or decreased | usually normal until advanced | normal or decreased |
| reversibility | usually | rarely | usually |

Adapted from Kurella Tamura M, Yaffe K. Dementia and cognitive impairment in end-stage renal disease: diagnostic and management strategies. Kidney Int 79: 14-22, 2011