

A DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS FOR ANY CONDITION

Formulating a good differential diagnosis is an essential step in safely and effectively caring for patients.

Here are **three mnemonics** effective students (and experienced clinicians) use to develop a comprehensive differential



VINDICATE		
V	Vascular	
I	Infectious	
N	Neoplastic	
D	Degenerative	
I	Iatrogenic	Intoxication
C	Congenital	
A	Autoimmune	
T	Traumatic	
E	Endocrine	Metabolic

ALL CLINICIANS
MD, PA-C, NP, RN, PharmD, and others
MUST LEARN THE ART OF THE DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS



VITAMIN CDE		
V	Vascular	
I	Infectious	Inflammatory
T	Traumatic	Toxic
A	Autoimmune	
M	Metabolic	
I	Iatrogenic	Idiopathic
N	Neoplastic	
C	Congenital	
D	Degenerative	
E	Endocrine	

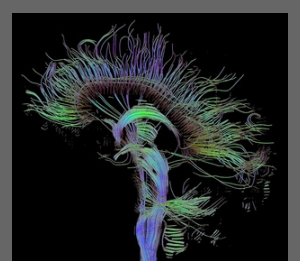
USE A VARIETY OF STUDY STRATEGIES such as mnemonics, method of loci (a memory palace), and spaced repetition



VITAMINS ABCDEK		
V	Vascular	
I	Infectious	Inflammatory
T	Traumatic	
A	Autoimmune	Allergy
M	Metabolic	Mechanical
I	Iatrogenic	Idiopathic
N	Neoplastic	
S	Social	
A	Alcohol	
B	Behavioral	
C	Congenital	
D	Degenerative	Drug
E	Endocrine	
K	Karyotype	

AND REMEMBER, THERE IS MORE TO MEDICAL EDUCATION THAN textbooks and lectures

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Sources:

Family Medicine Reference Differential Diagnosis – VITAMIN CDE.[Accessed March 9, 2018]. Available from: <http://www.fammedref.org/mnemonic/differential-diagnosis-vitamin-cde>.

Zabidi-Hussin ZA. Practical way of creating differential diagnoses through an expanded VITAMINSABCDEK mnemonic. *Advances in Medical Education and Practice*. 2016;7:247-248. doi:10.2147/AMEP.S106507.