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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/coma.html>

Coma

A coma is a deep state of unconsciousness. An individual in a coma is alive but unable to move or respond to his or her environment. Coma may occur as a complication of an underlying illness, or as a result of injuries, such as brain injury [<https://medlineplus.gov/traumaticbraininjury.html>].

A coma rarely lasts more than 2 to 4 weeks. The outcome for coma depends on the cause, severity, and site of the damage. People may come out of a coma with physical, intellectual, and psychological problems. Some people may remain in a coma for years or even decades. For those people, the most common cause of death is infection, such as pneumonia.

NIH: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Start Here

- Stupor and Coma [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/brain-spinal-cord-and-nerve-disorders/coma-and-impaired-consciousness/stupor-and-coma>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/enfermedades-cerebrales-medulares-y-nerviosas/coma-y-alteraci%C3%B3n-de-la-consciencia/estupor-y-coma>]

Related Issues

- Locked-in Syndrome [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/locked-syndrome>]
 (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/traumatic-brain-injury-tbi>]
 (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/es/health-information/disorders/lesion-cerebral-traumatica-lct>]

Specifics

- Diabetic Coma [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/diabetic-coma/symptoms-causes/syc-20371475?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/diabetic-coma/symptoms-causes/syc-20371475?p=1>]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Coma [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Coma%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]
 (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Persistent Vegetative State [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Persistent+Vegetative+State%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]
 (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Comprehensive observations and multidisciplinary approaches (COMA) in the management of unconscious... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40711621>]

- Article: Association of early in-hospital endotracheal intubation with clinical outcomes in patients... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40635071]
- Article: Pupil constrictions to subjective brightness as a gateway to probe consciousness... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40634411]
- Coma -- see more articles [https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Coma%22%5Bmajr%3Aexp%5D+OR+%22Persistent+Vegetative+State%22%5Bmajr%3Aexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+]

Reference Desk

- Cerebral Hypoxia [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/glossary-neurological-terms#cerebral%20hypoxia]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Coma [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/glossary-neurological-terms#coma]  (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
Also in Spanish [https://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/es/trastornos/coma]

Find an Expert

- American Academy of Neurology [https://www.aan.com/]
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/] 

Patient Handouts

- EEG [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003931.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003931.htm]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Cerebral hypoxia [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001435.htm]

EEG [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003931.htm]

Related Health Topics

Traumatic Brain Injury [https://medlineplus.gov/traumaticbraininjury.html]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Coma* is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/]

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