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## **Alcohol Withdrawal Hallucinations in the General Population, an Epidemiological Study**

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### **Abstract**

Hallucinations are sometimes encountered in the course of alcohol withdrawal; however, both the factors predisposing to alcohol withdrawal hallucinations (AWH) and the implications of AWH with respect to the mechanisms of hallucinations remain unclear. To clarify these issues, we used data from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC) to investigate the demographic correlates, alcohol-use clinical patterns, and psychiatric comorbidities in two groups: drinkers with and without a history of AWH. We estimated the odds ratios for studied factors and used logistic regression analyses to compare the two groups. We found that over 2% of drinkers reported AWH (758 of a sample of 34,533 subjects). Alcohol tolerance and withdrawal seizures were highly associated with AWH, and exposure to alcohol during brain development was associated with a 10-fold increase in AWH compared to

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