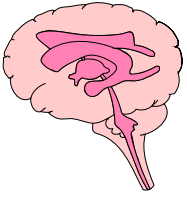


What is it?



- **Coma**- Unconscious state, unresponsive to verbal or painful stimuli, a state like anesthesia or a deep sleep, cannot be aroused even with severe pain
 - Glasgow coma scale is often used to determine levels of unconsciousness, prognosis
- **Obtundation**- reduced arousal
- **Hypersomnia**- excessive long or deep sleep, awakened only by energetic stimulation
- **Stupor**- deep unresponsiveness, aroused briefly by being shaken repeatedly, pinched, spoken to loudly, stuck by a pin

Causes:

- **Causes**- Serious illness, injuries, abnormalities of the brain
- **Brief Coma**- mild head injury, seizure, reduced blood flow to the brain- fainting spell, stroke

What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- for more information
- **Elevate Head**- to prevent aspiration if feeding
- **See a RD**- for help with calorie, fluid, vitamin, mineral, fiber needs
 - See FFF for all of the above stated
- **See FFF RD**- on line for help
- **Patient**- may need TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition)
- **Medications often used:**
 - **Anticonvulsants**- may aggravate folic acid metabolism, can cause decreased serum levels over a period of time
 - **Phenytoin (Dilantin)**
 - **Steroids**- increases sodium retention, increased potassium, magnesium and calcium losses, increased nitrogen depletion
 - **Antacids**- to prevent stress ulcers
 - **Cathartics**- monitor electrolyte imbalances

