

DIAGNOSTIC

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- In order to detect the cause of the coma, the doctor will evaluate the patient's medical and family history, perform blood tests, imaging analyzes and neurological examinations. Because the comatose person cannot express himself and is not conscious, the doctor will rely on the accounts of close people. These must tell the doctor what symptoms the patient had before entering the coma, what other medical problems he had, whether he used to consume alcohol or drugs, what treatments he was undergoing.
- Afterwards, the doctor will test the patient's reflexes to stimuli and will order blood tests that can indicate possible signs of intoxication with various substances, the level of electrolytes, blood sugar and hemoglobin, as well as the lipid status.
- If an infection or a disease of the central nervous system is suspected, the doctor may recommend a lumbar puncture. Computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging and electroencephalography are imaging tests that could detect possible *brain trauma*.