



features of hypoxic encephalopathy that may be seen in EEG include:

- (i) presence of theta activity
- (ii) diffuse slowing
- (iii) burst suppression (seen with more severe forms)
- (iv) alpha coma (seen with more severe forms)

EEG

- visual, brainstem and somatosensory evoked potentials test the integrity of neuroanatomical pathways within the brainstem and spinal cord

evoked potentials

general

- cardiac arrest is the 3rd leading cause of coma resulting in ICU admission after trauma and drug overdose
- the symptomatology and clinical outcome of patients with anoxic brain damage depend on the severity & duration of oxygen deprivation to the brain

outcome predictors

- clinical predictors of unfavourable prognosis in anoxic coma include:
 - (i) time interval of greater than 8 minutes until initiation of CPR
 - (ii) duration of CPR >30 minutes before ROSC
 - (iii) duration of post-anoxic coma of >72hrs
 - (iv) absence of pupillary responses on day 3
 - (v) motor response of extension or absent response on day 3
 - (vi) myoclonic jerks