Day of delirium occurrence	Number of patients	Blood sample no.	Time points of lab samples used for longitudinal analysis	Day before delirium occurrence	Sample used for cross-sectional analysis
1	1	1	t, t+1, t+3, t+5	0	1
2	8	2	t-1, t, t+2, t+4	1	1
3	9		t-2, t-1, t+1, t+3	2	2
4	9	3	t-3, t-1, t, t+2	3	Average of samples 2 and 3
5	5		t-4, t-3, t-1, t+1	4	3
6	3	4	t-5, t-4, t-2, t	5	Average of samples 3 and 4

Additional file 1: Exact description of the time points of the blood sampling relative to the day of delirium occurrence as well as the calculation of the biomarker level one day before the onset of delirium. 't' denotes day of delirium occurrence. For example, if delirium occurred on day 2 (t), then blood sample 1 was drawn on day 1 (t-1), blood sample 2 on day 2 (t), blood sample 3 on day 4(t+2) and blood sample 4 on day 6 (t+4)