

Appendix B

Strangulation Resources

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF STRANGULATION
(VISIBLE SIGNS MAY NOT BE PRESENT)

NEUROLOGICAL

- Loss of memory
- Loss of consciousness
- Behavioral changes
- Loss of sensation
- Extremity weakness
- Difficulty speaking
- Fainting
- Urination
- Defecation
- Vomiting
- Dizziness
- Headaches

SCALP

- Petechiae (tiny red spots)
- Bald spots (from hair being pulled)
- Swelling on the head (from blunt force trauma or falling to the ground)

EYES & EYELIDS

- Petechiae to eyeball
- Petechiae to eyelid
- Bloody red eyeball(s)
- Vision changes
- Droopy eyelid

EARS

- Ringing in ears
- Petechiae on earlobe(s)
- Bruising behind the ear
- Bleeding in the ear

FACE

- Petechiae
- Scratch marks
- Facial drooping
- Swelling

MOUTH

- Bruising
- Swollen tongue
- Swollen lips
- Cuts/abrasions
- Internal Petechiae

CHEST

- Chest pain
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Bruising
- Abrasions

NECK

- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Finger nail impressions
- Bruising (thumb or fingers)
- Swelling
- Ligature or Clothing Marks

VOICE & THROAT CHANGES

- Raspy or hoarse voice
- Unable to speak
- Trouble swallowing
- Painful to swallow
- Clearing the throat
- Coughing
- Nausea
- Drooling
- Sore throat
- Stridor

BREATHING CHANGES

- Difficulty breathing
- Respiratory distress
- Unable to breathe

Illustration & Graphics by Yesenia Acoes

Source: *Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence*, Chapter 16, *Intimate Partner Violence*. Oxford University Press, Inc. 2009.



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v 10.5.2017

SIGNS of Strangulation

Visible evidence of injury, observable to others as well as to the victim*

Source: Strangulation In Intimate Partner Homicide, Chapter 10, Intimate Partner Homicide, Oxford University Press, Inc. 2006.

SCALP

- Petechiae
- Bald spots (from hair being pulled)
- Bump to the head (from blunt force trauma or falling to the ground)

EARS

- Ringing in ears
- Petechiae on earlobe(s)
- Bruising behind the ear
- Bleeding in the ear

EYES & EYELIDS

- Petechiae to eyeball
- Petechiae to eyelid
- Bloody red eyeball(s)
- Vision changes
- Droopy eyelid

MOUTH

- Bruising
- Swollen tongue
- Swollen lips
- Cuts/abrasions
- Internal Petechiae

FACE

- Petechiae (tiny red spots - slightly red or florid)
- Scratch marks
- Facial drooping
- Swelling

NECK

- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Finger nail impressions
- Bruising (thumb or fingers)
- Swelling
- Ligature Marks

CHEST

- Chest pain
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Bruising
- Abrasions



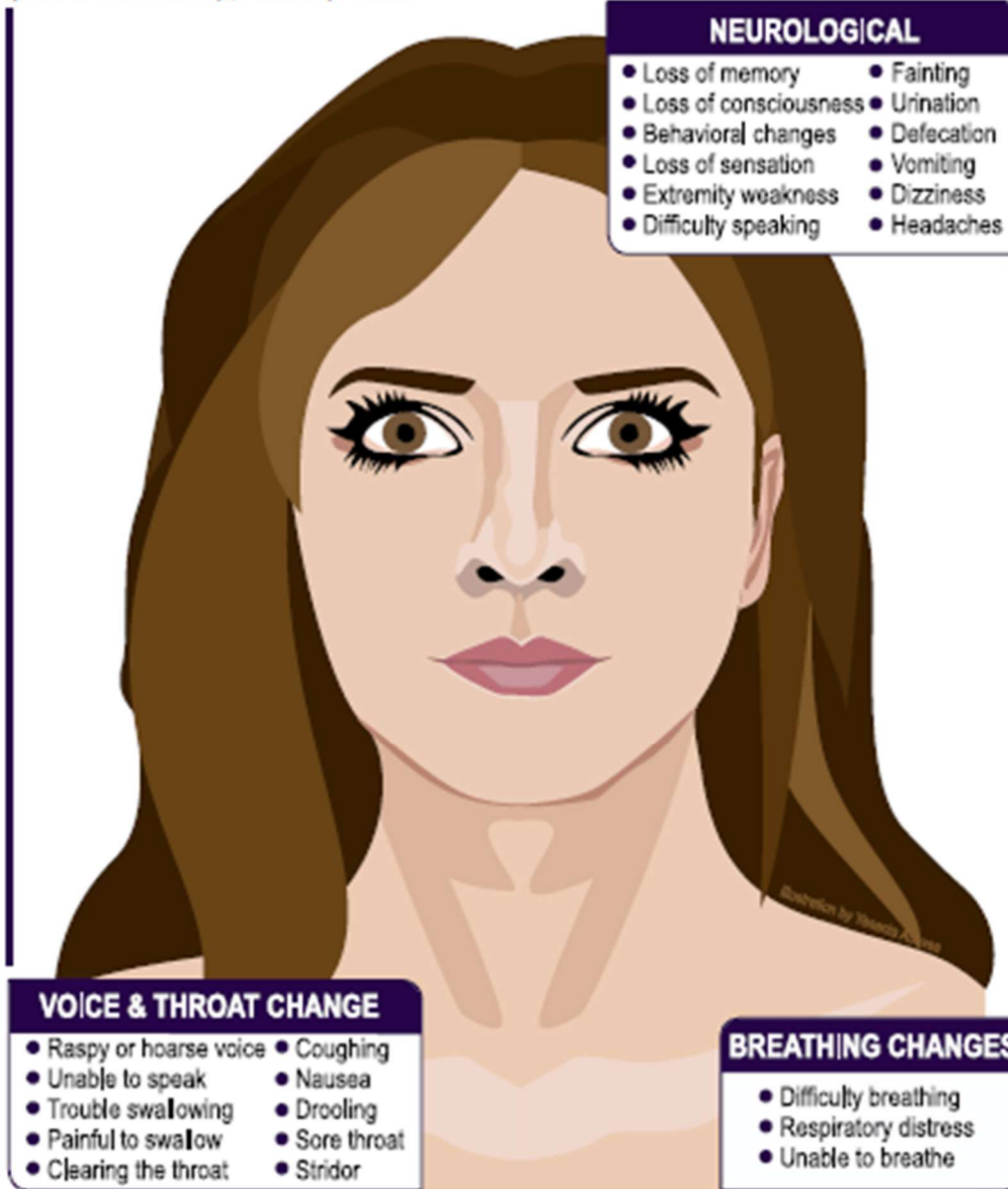
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*The lack of visible signs does not eliminate the possibility of strangulation; invisible symptoms may also be present.

SYMPTOMS^{of} Strangulation

Revised: Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence, Chapter 14
James P. Walker, MD, PhD, University of Texas, San Antonio

Injuries not visible to the naked eye; observable only to the victim*



- NEUROLOGICAL**
- Loss of memory
 - Loss of consciousness
 - Behavioral changes
 - Loss of sensation
 - Extremity weakness
 - Difficulty speaking
 - Fainting
 - Urination
 - Defecation
 - Vomiting
 - Dizziness
 - Headaches

- VOICE & THROAT CHANGE**
- Raspy or hoarse voice
 - Unable to speak
 - Trouble swallowing
 - Painful to swallow
 - Clearing the throat
 - Coughing
 - Nausea
 - Drooling
 - Sore throat
 - Stridor

- BREATHING CHANGES**
- Difficulty breathing
 - Respiratory distress
 - Unable to breathe



*Visible signs may also be present.

The Medical Protocol Subcommittee of the Sexual Assault Advisory Committee greatly acknowledges Alliance for Hope International for allowing us to reproduce, in part or in whole, the resources provided on their website.