

# SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF STRANGULATION

## NEUROLOGICAL

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

## SCALP

- Petechiae
- Bald spots (*from hair being pulled*)
- Bump to 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 (*tiny red spots-slightly red or florid*)
- 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 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

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



[www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com](http://www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com)

Graphics by Yesenia Aceves