

Syncope

What is it?

- **Syncope**— is due to the temporary reduction in blood flow with a shortage of oxygen to the brain; partial or complete loss of consciousness with interruption of awareness of one’s surroundings; fainting, blacking out, usually lasts only a few seconds after which consciousness is regained ; affects 1 million Americans yearly and 3% of all ER visits and 6% of all hospital visits



Symptoms:

- **Symptoms**- fainting, lightheadedness, black out, loss of consciousness, temporary impairment of the blood supply to the brain; dizziness, passing out

Facts:

- **Non-Cardiac Causes of Syncope**- dehydration, hypotension, blood pressure medications, diabetes, Parkinson’s disease, stroke, TIA/transient ischemic attack, high altitude, migraine, fainting; emotional stress, pain, overheating, heavy sweating, exhaustion, violent coughing spells, may result from several heart, psychiatric, metabolic, heart, and lung disorders
 - **What Causes Syncope**- decreased blood flow to the brain, the blood vessels lack tone to maintain blood pressure to deliver the blood to the brain, the heart fails to pump the blood, not enough blood or fluid in the blood vessels or a combination of all as stated
- **Cardiac Causes**- abnormal heart rhythms, aortic dissection, aortic stenosis, cardiomyopathy, high blood pressure

What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- for more information
 - **Evaluation of Syncope**- patient history and physical examination
 - **Tests**- ECG/electrocardiogram, CAT/computed assisted tomography, MRI/magnetic resonance imaging, MRA/magnetic resonance angiography

