



# SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF STRANGULATION

(VISIBLE SIGNS MAY NOT BE PRESENT)

The Family Violence Prevention Services gratefully acknowledges Alliance for HOPE International for allowing us to reproduce, in part or in whole, the "Signs & 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 (*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 Aceves

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

