

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 Aceves

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

