

Long Term Effects of Strangulation

Survey Results of Women Strangled-Wilber et al (2001)

Table 3. Medical Symptoms Experienced Within Two Weeks Post Strangulation Episode

Symptom	Yes (n)	Valid percent (%)
General		
Dizziness	25/41	61
Loss of consciousness	7/41	17
HEENT		
Vision change	11/40	28
Ringing in ears (tinnitus)	14/39	36
Sore throat	24/41	59
Voice change	18/40	45
Difficulty swallowing (dysphagia)	17/39	44
Neck pain	28/41	68
Neck swelling	14/40	35
Nose bleed	4/41	10
Respiratory		
Difficult breathing	34/40	85
Gastrointestinal		
Heartburn/acid reflux	10/34	30
Genitourinary		
Miscarriage	4/38	11
Involuntary urination (incontinence)	4/38	11
Skin		
Scratches on neck	18/41	44
Tiny red spots (petichiae)	22/41	54
Red linear marks	26/41	63
Rope or cord burns	3/40	8
Neurological		
Eye lid droop (ptosis)	8/40	20
Facial droop	4/39	10
L or R sided weakness	7/39	18
Paralysis	2/40	5
Loss of sensation	12/39	31
Psychiatric		
Memory problems	12/39	31
Depression	30/37	81
Suicidal ideation	12/39	31
Insomnia	26/39	67
Nightmares	27/39	70

Multiple Strangulation attacks=increase in neuropsychological symptoms(> 5 events-D Smith et al)

- Nightmares
- Personality changes
- Depression
- Insomnia
- Suicidal ideation
- Anxiety
- Memory Loss
- Dizziness
- Tinnitus
- PTSD/other symptoms>>> anoxic encephalopathy, psychosis, seizures, amnesia
- CVA and progressive dementia
- Abused women in general have more headaches, back pain, STI, vaginal bleeding, vaginal infections, pelvic pain, painful intercourse, UTI, appetite loss, abdominal pain and digestive problems than never abused women

Mental Health and Behavioral Changes

- Due to brain cells deprived of oxygen
- If interruption brief, symptoms and signs are temporary and generally resolve.
- If longer, findings may be permanent and not resolve.
- Memory loss-brain cells that affect memory die first/
Cells that stimulate breathing/control bowel and bladder >>>> cells last to die>>>>near death

Resources

- Campbell, J C. Health Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence. *The Lancet* 2002;359: 1331-1335.
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- Shields, LBE, et. al. Living Victims of Strangulation. *Am J Forensic Med Pathol* 2010; 31:4: 320-325.
- Smith, DJ., et. al. Frequency and Relationship of Reported Symptomology in Victims of Intimate Partner Violence: The Effect of Multiple Strangulation Attacks. *The Journal of Emergency Medicine* 2001; 21:3: 323-329.
- Stapczynski, SJ. Strangulation Injuries. *Emergency Medicine Reports* 2010; 31:17: August 2: 193-204.
- Wilber L., et. al. Survey Results of Women Who Have Been Strangled While in an Abusive Relationship. *The Journal of Emergency Medicine* 2001; 21:3: 297-302.