

# Non-lethal Strangulation.

## Signs & Symptoms

### Eyes & ears.

- Petechiae to eyeball
- Petechiae to eyelid
- Bloody red eyeball(s)
- Vision changes
- Ringing in ears
- Petechiae on earlobe(s)
- Bruising behind ear(s)
- Bleeding in ear(s)
- Droopy eyelid (s)

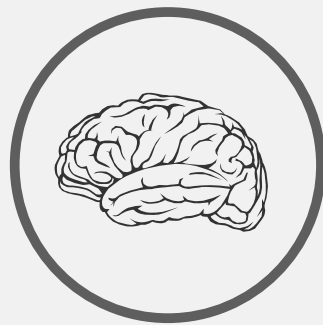
\*Petechiae are tiny purple, red or brown spots on the skin due to bleeding under the skin.

### Neck & chest.

- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Finger nail impressions
- Bruising (thumb or fingers)
- Chest pain
- Redness
- Abrasions
- Swelling
- Ligature marks

### Breathing changes & mouth.

- Difficulty breathing
- Respiratory distress
- Unable to breathe
- Swollen tongue/lips
- Cuts/abrasions
- Internal petechiae



### Neurological.

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



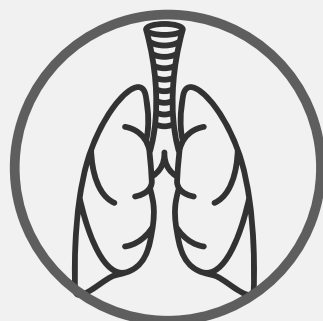
### Scalp & face.

- Bald spots (from hair being pulled)
- Bump to the head (from blunt force trauma or falling)
- Petechiae (tiny red spots - slightly red or florid)
- Scratch marks
- Facial drooping
- Swelling



### Voice & throat.

- Raspy or hoarse voice
- Unable to speak
- Painful or difficulty swallowing
- Clearing throat
- Drooling
- Sore throat
- Stridor
- Bruising
- Nausea
- Coughing



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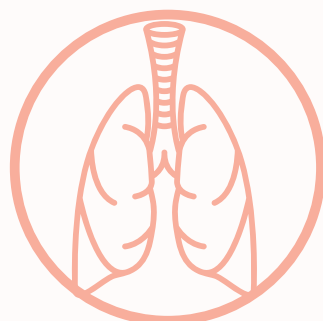
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# Non-lethal Strangulation.

Strangulation is defined as reduced blood flow and/or air flow to or from the brain due to intentional external compression to the neck and/or throat.

## Non-immediate risks.

### **Psychological injury.**

PTSD, depression, suicidal ideation, memory problems, nightmares, anxiety, severe stress reaction, amnesia, and psychosis.

### **Increased risk of murder**

Survivors of Domestic & Family Violence who have experienced non-lethal strangulation are 7.5 times more likely to be killed by their violent partner/ex-partner.

### **Delayed fatality.**

Death can occur days or weeks after the attack due to carotid artery dissection and respiratory complications such as pneumonia, ARDS and the risk of blood clots traveling to the brain (embolization).

## Psychological timeline.

This seconds to minutes timeline is based on data the Strangulation Institute.

**0** seconds **Pressure on carotid arteries.**

**6.8** seconds **Adult male rendered unconscious.**

**14** seconds **Anoxic seizure.**

**15** seconds **Loss of bladder control.**

**30** seconds **Loss of bowel control.**

**62-157** seconds **Death.**

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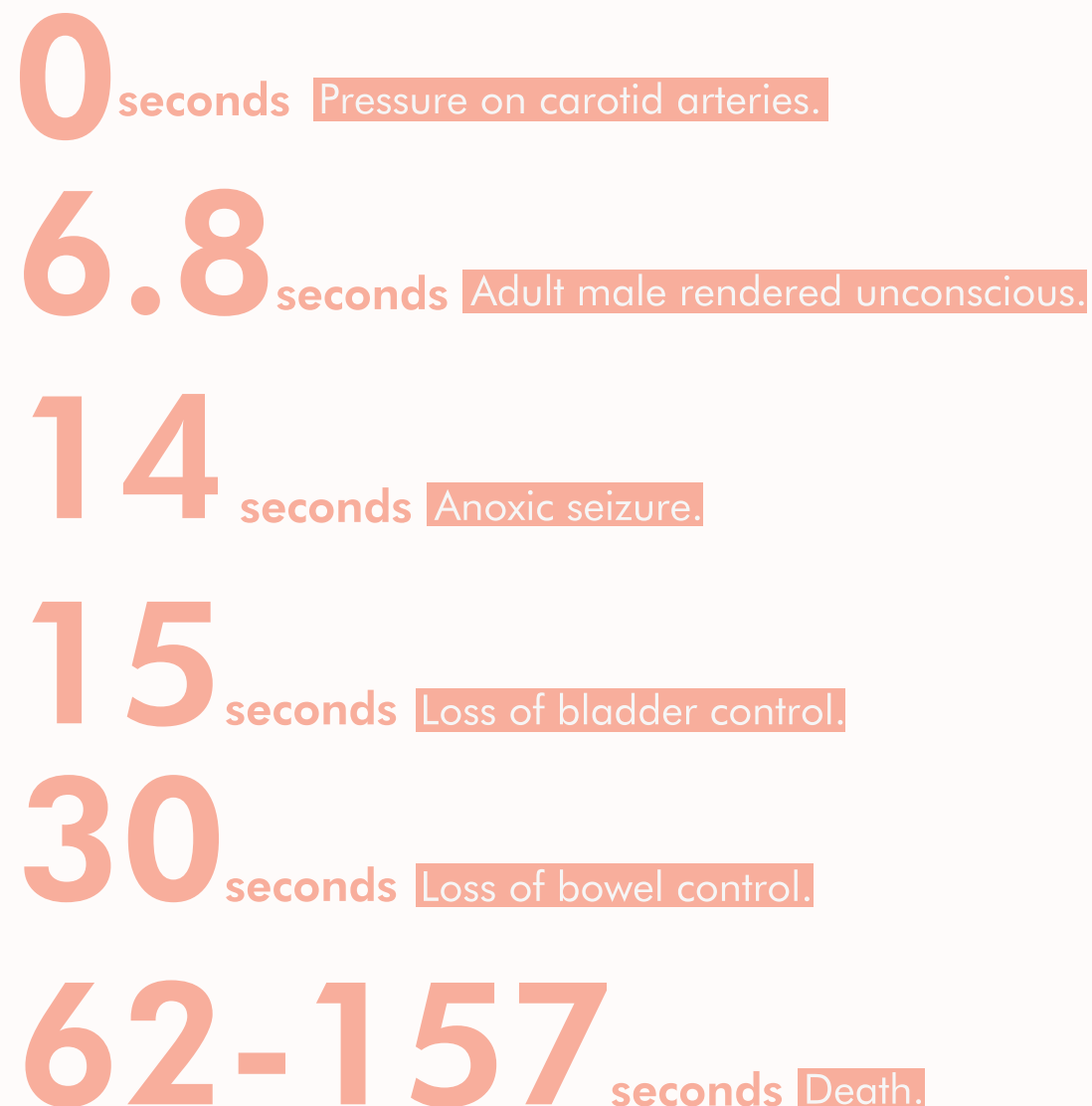
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