



SAN DIEGO COUNTY HEALTH CARES INITIATIVE

*IMPROVING PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PRACTICES
FOR
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND STRANGULATION*





SAN DIEGO COUNTY HEALTH CARES INITIATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

PRESENTERS

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IS IT IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY NONFATAL STRANGULATION?



True or False?

*Non-fatal strangulation of an intimate partner is associated with an increased in risk of future **homicide**.*



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NONFATAL STRANGULATION AND HOMICIDE

TRUE

One of the most lethal forms of domestic violence and sexual assault

Associated with a

- SIX-fold increased risk of attempted homicide
- SEVEN-fold increased risk of completed homicide (some sources say 8x)



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A doctor in a white coat and stethoscope is talking to a woman in a hospital gown. The doctor is looking down at the woman, who is looking up at him. The background is a blurred hospital setting.

WHY IMPORTANT?

· Non-fatal strangulation is a strong indicator of future lethality in intimate partner relationships.

· Healthcare staff have an important role in screening for intimate partner violence (IPV) and strangulation.

· Referral for a Domestic Assault Forensic Examination (DAFE) can make a difference in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes.

· 13% of domestic violence homicides in our county in the past 22 years were the result of strangulation.

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- C** **Conduct Screening** for current and former intimate partner abuse
- A** **Assess** for signs and symptoms of strangulation
- R** **Report** suspicious injuries to law enforcement
- E** **Evaluate** patient (evidence collection by a Forensic Examiner)
- S** **Safety Plan** and connect patient to resources



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VICTIM APPEARANCE

Recognizing strangulation signs and symptoms during medical examinations can save lives!

However, **>50% of victims** have
NO EXTERNAL SIGNS

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF STRANGULATION

The infographic features a central illustration of a woman's face and neck, with various signs and symptoms listed in colored boxes around her. The boxes are: NEUROLOGICAL (top left), SCALP (top right), EYES & EYELIDS (middle left), EARS (middle right), FACE (lower middle left), MOUTH (lower middle right), CHEST (bottom left), NECK (bottom right), VOICE & THROAT CHANGES (bottom left), and BREATHING CHANGES (bottom right). The source is cited as 'Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence, Chapter 16, Intimate Partner Violence, Oxford University Press, Inc. 2009.' The logo for the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention is at the bottom, with the website www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com.

- NEUROLOGICAL**
 - Loss of memory
 - Behavioral changes
 - Loss of sensation
 - Extremely weakness
 - Headaches
 - Fainting
 - Urination
 - Defecation
 - Vomited
 - Dizziness
- SCALP**
 - Petechiae
 - Bald spots (from hair being pulled)
 - Bump to 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 (tiny red spots, slightly red or flulid)
 - 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 Marks
- VOICE & THROAT CHANGES**
 - Raspy or hoarse voice
 - Unable to speak
 - Trouble swallowing
 - Painful to swallow
 - Clearing the throat
 - Coughing
 - Nausea
 - Drooling
 - Sore throat
- BREATHING CHANGES**
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Respiratory distress
 - Unable to breathe

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

TRAINING INSTITUTE ON STRANGULATION PREVENTION
www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com



STRANGULATION IS SERIOUS!

Only 4 pounds of external pressure required to occlude jugular veins

Only 5 to 11 pounds of pressure required to occlude carotid arteries

Unconsciousness can occur within seconds

Death can occur within 3 to 5 minutes



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CHOKING vs. STRANGULATION

Strangulation is not “choking”

- Choking involves INTERNAL airway obstruction rather than an external force applied to the neck



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UNCONSCIOUSNESS WITHIN SECONDS



PASSING THE TORCH

FROM CRIMINAL JUSTICE TO HEALTHCARE



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INITIATIVE GOALS

TOOLS & TRAINING FOR
HEALTHCARE STAFF

* STRANGULATION
ASSESSMENT

* UNIVERSAL SCREENING
FOR INTIMATE PARTNER
ABUSE

* FURTHER EVALUATION &
REFERRALS FOR FORENSIC EXAMS

* SUSPICIOUS INJURY REPORTING

* PATIENT SAFETY PLANNING

* CONNECTIONS TO RESOURCES



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TARGET SETTINGS

Civilian and Military Hospitals and Health Systems

Colleges/Universities Student Health Centers

Community Clinics (FQHC's)

Medical/Nursing Schools

Professional Organizations

- American Academy of Family Physicians, Hospital Association of San Diego & Imperial County (HASDIC), Stroke Consortium

County Public Health Nurses



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INITIATIVE LAUNCH

- Press Conference 10/15/19
- Prevention Kits Roll-Out
 - Information, tools, resources for healthcare staff and for patients
- Train-the-Trainer Event 10/16/19
- Posters/wallet cards for healthcare sites
- Website



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SEEKING CHAMPIONS

ROLE OF A CHAMPION

- ✓ Attend the train-the-trainer on October 16th (*Health Cares about DV Day*)
- ✓ Receive a set of Prevention Kits for your healthcare system
- ✓ Hang the posters and place the wallet cards in key areas of your healthcare site
- ✓ Request originals from HHSA Public Health after 10/16 for further duplication of kit items
- ✓ Become a spokesperson for the campaign within your organization



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CONTACT US TO BECOME A CHAMPION

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