

# Syncope

Syncope is a temporary [loss of consciousness](#) usually related to insufficient [blood flow](#) to the brain. It's also called fainting or "passing out."

## Etiology

It most often occurs when blood pressure is too low ([hypotension](#)) and the heart doesn't pump enough oxygen to the brain.

Some common causes of syncope in pediatric age include:

[Vasovagal syncope](#): This is the most frequent cause of syncope in children. It happens when there's a temporary drop in heart rate and blood pressure, often triggered by factors like pain, fear, standing for prolonged periods, or intense emotions.

[Orthostatic hypotension](#): It occurs when a child's blood pressure drops significantly upon standing, leading to fainting. This may be due to dehydration, certain medications, or various medical conditions.

[Heart-related issues](#): While less common, some heart-related conditions can cause syncope in children, such as arrhythmias (abnormal heart rhythms), structural heart defects, or other cardiac conditions.

[Neurological conditions](#): Certain neurological disorders or seizures can lead to syncope or fainting in pediatric patients.

[Hyperventilation](#): Rapid and deep breathing can alter blood gas levels and potentially cause fainting.

[Dehydration](#): Severe dehydration can lower blood volume and trigger syncope.

[Anemia](#): In cases of severe anemia, there might not be enough red blood cells to carry oxygen, leading to fainting.

[Infections](#): In some instances, severe infections can lead to syncope.

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