



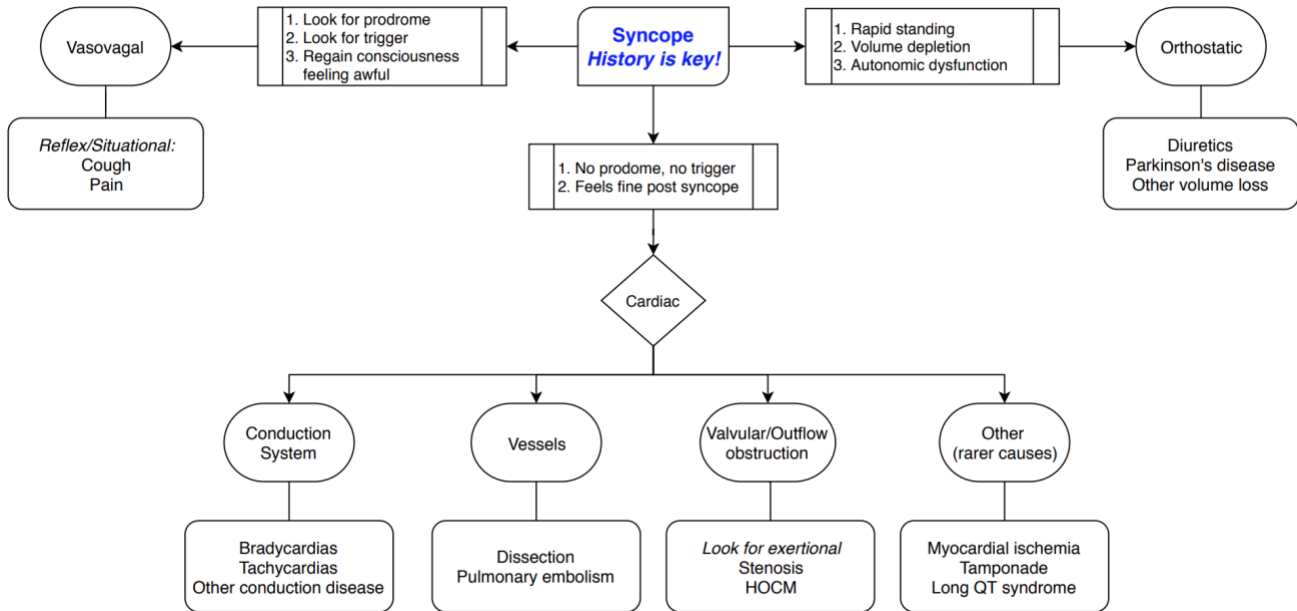
Cardiac Causes of Syncope

Handout compiled by Moses Murdock (@haematognomist)
Discussant: Dr. Jason Ryan



1. Definition:

- Sudden loss of consciousness due to hypoperfusion of the brain
- Absence of other causes: seizure, hypoxia, hypoglycemia, intoxication etc.



2. Workup: *be wary of over-testing*

- EKG: look for evidence of unhealthy conduction system: prolonged PR interval, LBBB, RBBB, slow sinus rate etc.
- In select patients:
 - Carotid ultrasound (to work up transient ischemic)
 - Orthostatic vital signs
 - Telemetry/heart monitors
- Who is high risk and/or deserves inpatient admission
 - Vasovagal → usually no need to admit
 - Cardiac cause that may recrudescence → warrants admission

3. Management:

- Immediate measures:
 - Lie down + elevate lower limbs
 - Obtain vital signs, history
- Indications for AICD (automatic implantable cardioverter defibrillator)
 - Survives ventricular Tachycardia, Ventricular fibrillation
 - High risk: very low EF especially in context of ischemia
- Guide to cardiology consult: is there something only they can provide?