

## Epilepsy and syncope

The principal **differential diagnosis** is between an **epileptic** \_\_\_\_\_ and a **syncopal attack**, or \_\_\_\_\_. **Syncope** is a sudden loss of consciousness due to temporary \_\_\_\_\_ of the cerebral circulation. Syncope is distinguished \_\_\_\_\_ a seizure principally by the circumstances in which the \_\_\_\_\_ occurs. For \_\_\_\_\_, syncope usually occurs whilst standing, in situations of severe stress, or in association with cardiac arrhythmia. **Convulsion** and urinary incontinence sometimes occur \_\_\_\_\_ in a syncopal attack. The key is to \_\_\_\_\_ the presence or absence of **prodromal symptoms**, i.e. symptoms that occur immediately before the attack. A syncopal \_\_\_\_\_ is usually preceded by symptoms of **dizziness** and **light-headedness**. In epilepsy, people may get a warning, known as **aura**, that an attack is going to happen. The good news \_\_\_\_\_ epilepsy sufferers is that the seizure is, like syncope, **transient** and does not last long.

! establish example fainting episode fit even for failure event from...? !

## Doctor's questions

Did you lose \_\_\_\_\_ suddenly or gradually?

Did you often become \_\_\_\_\_ in recent years?

Did you get a \_\_\_\_\_ of the attack?

What were you doing before you passed \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Were you worried or under any \_\_\_\_\_ at the time?

Did you feel \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ before the attack?

Did you lose \_\_\_\_\_ of your bladder?

Did your partner notice any \_\_\_\_\_ movements while you had the **blackout**?