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Laughter-induced syncope: Abstract and literature review

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Syncope is a common and pervasive medical problem. Almost 20% of the etiology of syncopes, however, remains unknown. Laughter-induced syncope is a rare subtype of vasovagal syncope that isnot well-understood. We present a case report and literature review of laughter syncope. This case describes a healthy 38-year old male who had syncope after intense laughter. He had two near-faint episodes before. His physical and neurologic exams were unremarkable. His basic metabolic panel, blood glucose, ECG, echocardiogram, CT scan of the brain, and electrophysiology study were all within normal limits. With this case report and literature review we hope to elucidate the epidemiology, symptomatology, diagnostic tests, pathophysiology and therapeutic options of laughter syncope. Knowledge of these may help in the recognition of laughter syncope and prevent further unnecessary medical investigations.

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