Syncope: Fainting

IV. VASOVAGAL RESPONSE TO INJECTION: Medication

A. Treatment: Ammonia capsule if needed.

1. If the individual **"feels faint"** and remains conscious:

- Client becomes pale.
  - Check pulse.*
- Client reports feeling faint, light headed, and dizzy, nauseated, or is cold and clammy (diaphoretic)
  - Have patient sit with their head down for several minutes
  - Lay flat with feet elevated
- Take vital signs and document event
- Watch closely for changes in condition

2. **Unconsciousness:**

- Client collapses suddenly to unconsciousness, BUT maintains a slow, steady, strong pulse, normal respirations and blood pressure.
  - Place flat on back, with feet elevated
  - May use an ammonia ampule (crush and wave near patient's nose)
- Unconsciousness from fainting should only last seconds

3. Have patient rest in a quiet area for 10 minutes after regaining consciousness. Slowly have patient move to a sitting position and then standing, checking to make sure no symptoms recur.

4. **No response to ammonia capsule**:

- Go to the **anaphylaxis** section.

*Anaphylaxis can be distinguished from a vasovagal response by the quality of the pulse. **In the case of anaphylaxis, the pulse may be rapid, thready, and weak**. The patient's blood pressure may be falling.