

# Hair Grooming Seizures in Adolescents

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## Introduction

Hair grooming Seizure (aka Hair Grooming Syncope, Hair combing Syncope, Hair Braiding Syncope) is a rare, benign form of nonepileptic seizure associated with hair grooming activities such as brushing, braiding, combing, blow drying, etc.

- It is more common in females
- Occurs from ages 5-16 with the average age being 9.5 y/o
- It is associated more closely with Hair Cutting in males and brushing in females
- Mostly occurs while standing, but has been known to occur while sitting or kneeling as well.

## Case Description

### Presentation:

9 y/o female presents to clinic with parents over concerns of a syncopal episode the previous night. The patient was standing while getting her hair brushed by her mother when she lost consciousness and collapsed to the ground. She briefly convulsed for approximately 10 seconds. She does not remember the episode and there was no urinary incontinence. There were no post-ictal symptoms.

### ROS:

+: Syncope, convulsions  
-: Palpitations, chest pain, dizziness, headache, fever

### PMH:

The patient had no history of febrile seizures, migraines, narcolepsy, or epilepsy.  
Does not take any medications

### Family hx:

There is no family history of seizures or epilepsy

### Physical Exam:

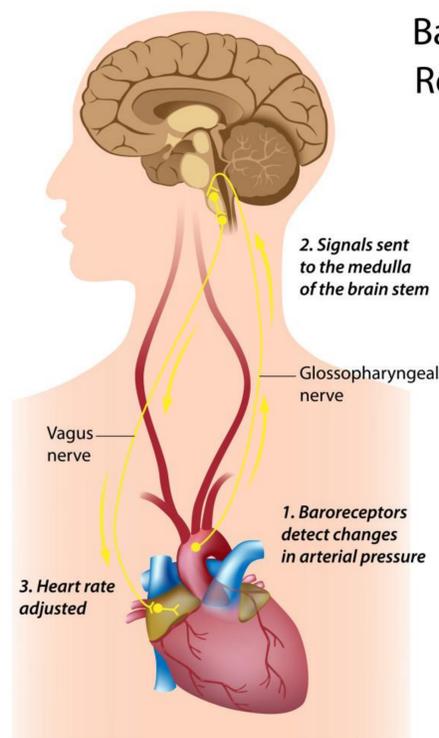
Unremarkable

## Conclusions

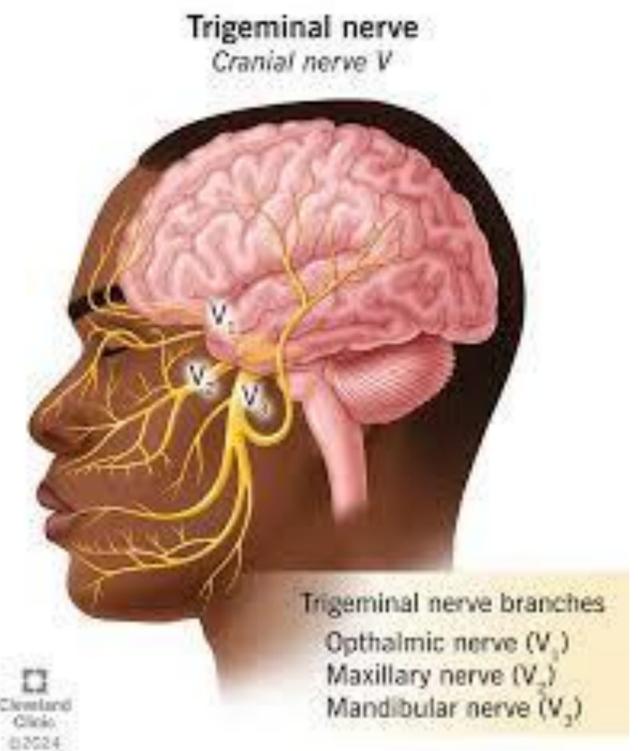
The rare and benign nature of this condition means research/data on this topic is limited and a true underlying cause has yet to be determined.

### Possible causes

- Pain/nerve stimulation of the scalp stimulating the trigeminal nerve
- Vasovagal syncope followed by hypoxic-ischemic convulsions(a variation on "Parade Ground Syncope")
- Flexion/Extension of the neck triggering the baroreceptor reflex.(However the majority occur while the neck is in a neutral position)



Baroreceptor Reflex



## Next Steps

The Patient and her parents were reassured of the benign nature of her condition and told that if it happens again then they should come back to get a referral to a pediatric neurologist for further work up.

## References

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2. Fox, Sean M., et al. "Hair Grooming Syncope." *Pediatric EM Morsels*, 15 Nov. 2013, [pedemorsels.com/hair-grooming-syncope/](http://pedemorsels.com/hair-grooming-syncope/).
3. LEWIS, DONALD W., and L. MATTHEW FRANK. "Hair-grooming syncope seizures." *Pediatrics*, vol. 91, no. 4, 1 Apr. 1993, pp. 836-838, <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.91.4.836>.