

# La sincope ipotensiva: diagnosi e terapia in OBI (Osservazione breve intensiva)

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# Disclosure *30 anni con Ungar.*



in Syncope Course



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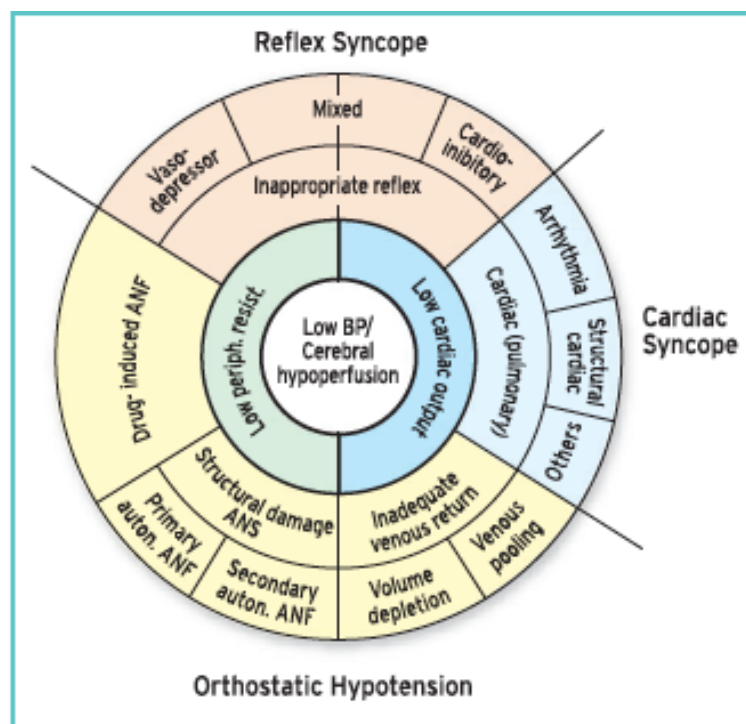
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## 2018 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of syncope



**2018  
NEW/REVISED  
CONCEPTS  
in management  
of syncope**

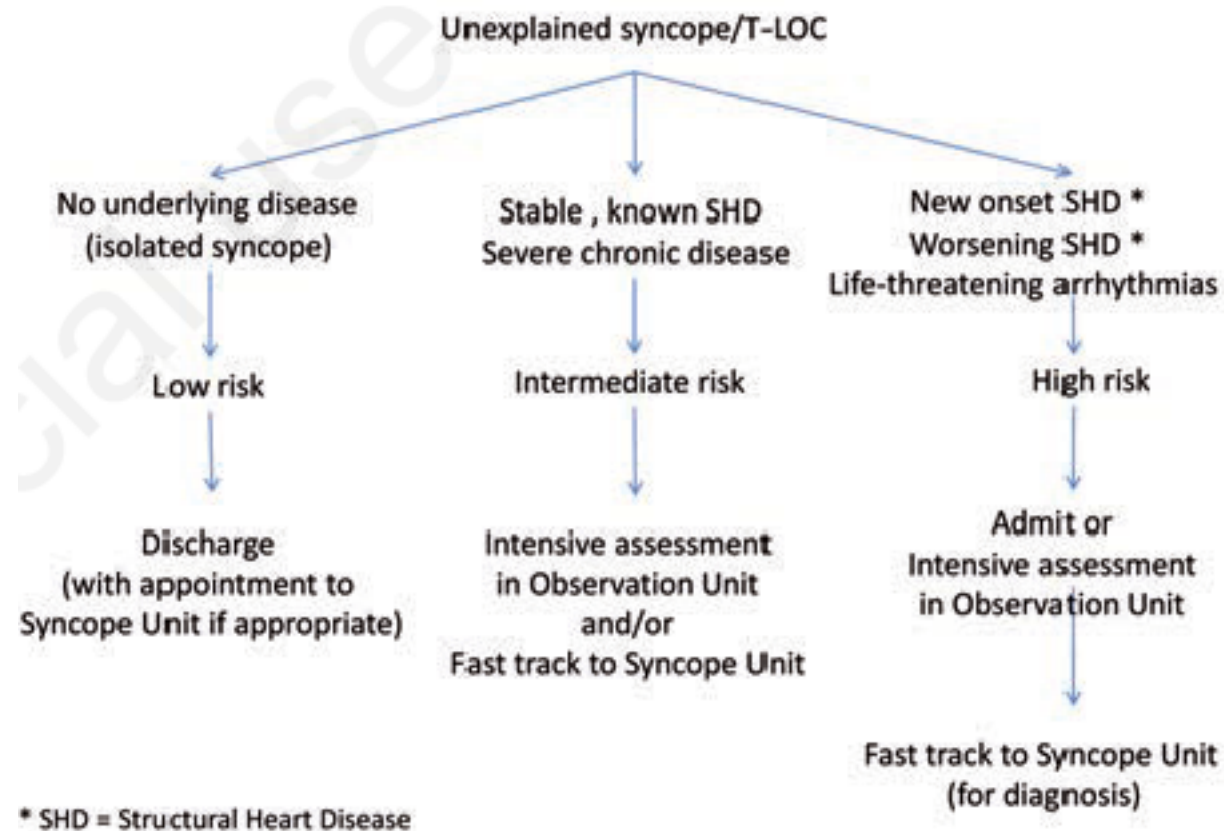
### MANAGEMENT IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT:

- List of low-risk and high-risk features
- Risk stratification flowchart
- Management in *ED Observation Unit* and/or fast-track to *Syncope Unit*
- Restricted admission criteria
- Limited usefulness of risk stratification scores

## Management of transient loss of consciousness of suspected syncopal cause, after the initial evaluation in the Emergency Department

Ivo Casagrande,<sup>1</sup> Michele Brignole,<sup>2</sup>  
 Simone Cencetti,<sup>3</sup> Gianfranco Cervellin,<sup>4</sup>  
 Giorgio Costantino,<sup>5</sup> Raffaello Furlan,<sup>6</sup>  
 Gianluigi Mossini,<sup>4</sup> Filippo Numeroso,<sup>4</sup>  
 Massimo Pesenti Campagnoni,<sup>7</sup>  
 Paolo Pinna Parpaglia,<sup>8</sup>  
 Martina Rafanelli,<sup>9</sup> Andrea Ungar<sup>9</sup>

Note: this consensus document has been approved by the *Gruppo Multidisciplinare per lo Studio della Sincope* (Multidisciplinary Group for the Study of Syncope; GIMSI) and the Academy of Emergency Medicine and Care (AcEMC) Task Force on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015.



# Management of syncope in the emergency department based on risk stratification

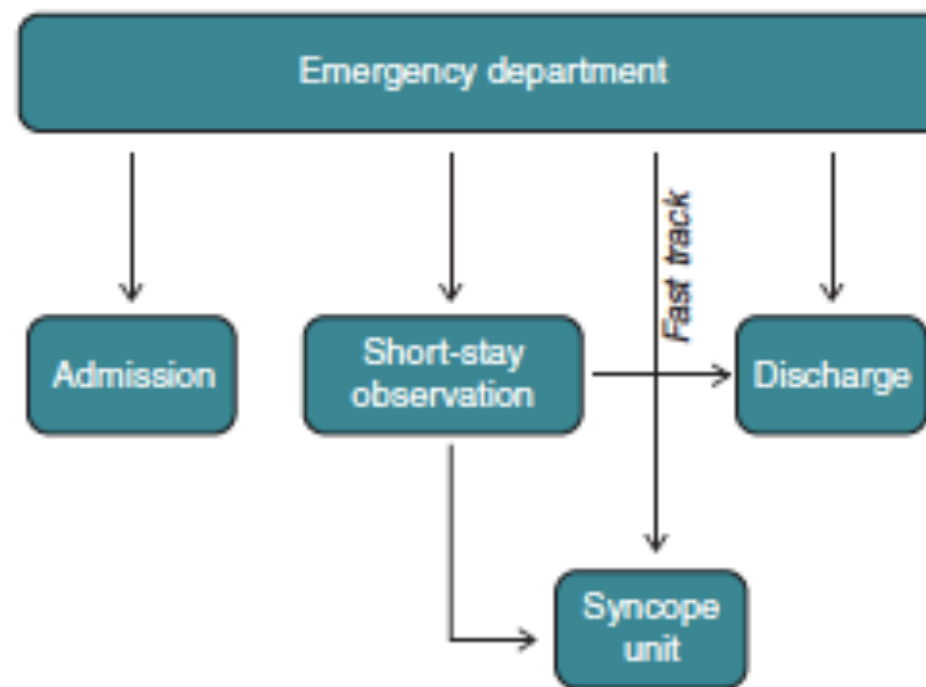
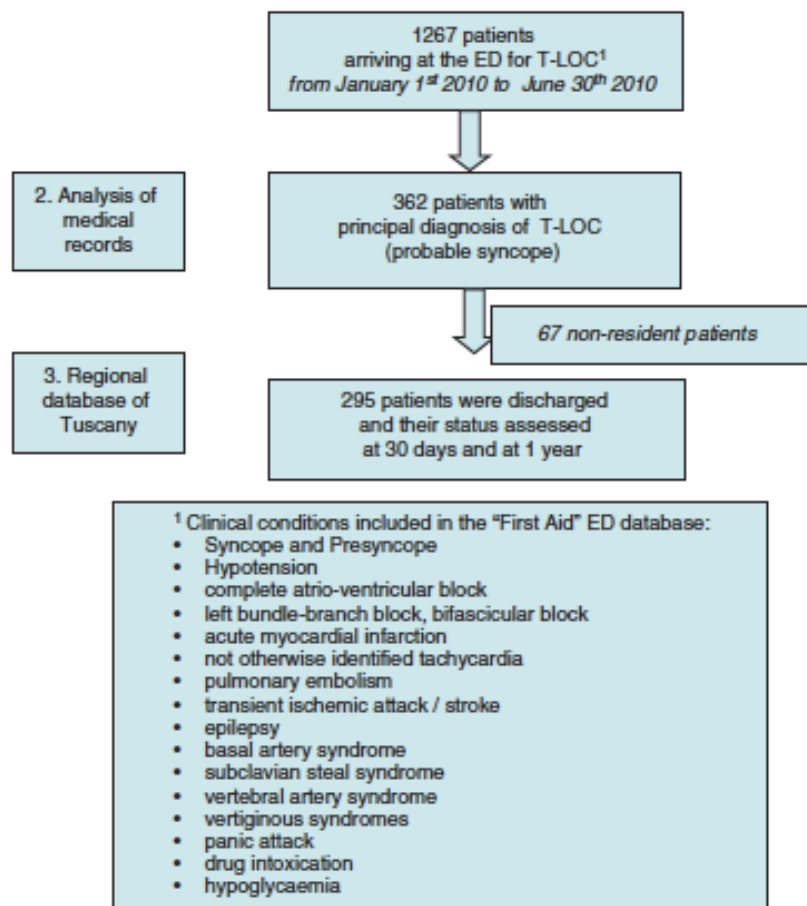
Matthew James Reed

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## Requirements of an emergency department syncope observation unit

An ED syncope observation unit should have the following tests, equipment, and characteristics: ECG and BP monitoring, standing test facilities, carotid sinus massage capability, echocardiogram, blood tests, and availability of consultation by a syncope expert and neurologists, cardiologists, geriatricians, and psychiatrists where required.

## Assessment of a structured management pathway for patients referred to the Emergency Department for syncope: results in a tertiary hospital



In Short-Stay Observation Unit, inside the ED, patients with T-LOC undergo, when necessary, continuous in-bed ECG monitoring, blood tests, echocardiography, stress testing, and vessel ultrasound examination. Neuroautonomic evaluation (Tilt Table Test and Carotid Sinus Massage) is not provided in the ED or in Short-Stay Observation, whereas it may be performed in patients admitted to the hospital. The

## Assessment of a structured management pathway for patients referred to the Emergency Department for syncope: results in a tertiary hospital

- Reduced admission rate to 29%
- Among patients not admitted,
  - 20% were discharged after a short observation in the ED,
  - 20% were fast-tracked to the syncope unit,
  - 31% were discharged directly from the ED

	Admissions (n = 85)	Short-Stay Observation (n = 60)	Syncope Unit (n = 58)	Discharges (n = 92)	P
Age (median, interquartile range)	77 (71–84)	68.5 (47–79)	62.5 (43–78)	53.0 (32.7–74.5)	<0.001
EGSYS Score (median, interquartile range)	3 (1:3)	2 (0:3)	1.5 (–1:3)	0.4 (–1:2)	<0.001
Abnormal ECG, n (% <sup>a</sup> )	23 (27.1)	12 (20.0)	9 (15.5)	6 (6.5)	0.005
EGSYS score > 3, n (% <sup>a</sup> )	45 (52.9)	17 (28.3)	10 (17.2)	14 (15.2)	<0.001
CV disease, n (% <sup>a</sup> )	64 (75.3)	33 (55.0)	27 (46.6)	32 (34.8)	<0.001
Trauma, n (% <sup>a</sup> )	22 (25.9)	16 (26.7)	12 (20.7)	14 (15.2)	0.397
<i>ED diagnosis</i>					
Cardiac syncope, n (% <sup>a</sup> )	17 (20.0)	5 (8.3)	3 (5.2)	3 (3.2)	<0.001
Neurally mediated syncope, n (% <sup>a</sup> )	13 (15.3)	26 (43.3)	20 (34.5)	70 (76.1)	<0.001
Non-syncopeal T-LOC, n (% <sup>a</sup> )	11 (12.9)	9 (15.0)	2 (3.4)	6 (6.5)	<0.001
Unexplained syncope, n (% <sup>a</sup> )	44 (51.8)	20 (33.4)	33 (56.9)	13 (14.1)	<0.001

# Role of emergency department observation units in the management of patients with unexplained syncope: a critical review and meta-analysis

Study	Year	Country	Design	Patients (n)	Male (%)	Mean age (yr)	CV disease (%)	Inclusion criteria
Shen et al. <sup>11</sup>	2004	US	RCT	51	49	64	43	Patients with undetermined syncope at intermediate risk
Rodriguez-Entem et al. <sup>12</sup>	2008	Spain	OS	199	54	67	NA	Patients not selected on a risk category basis
Sun et al. <sup>13</sup>	2013	US	RCT	62	47	65	23	Patients with undetermined syncope at intermediate risk
Grossman et al. <sup>14</sup>	2015	US	OS	27	33	53	22	Patients not selected on a risk category basis
Ungar et al. <sup>15</sup>	2016	Italy	OS	60	40	68.5	55	Patients not selected on a risk category basis
Numeroso et al. <sup>16</sup>	2016	Italy	OS	59	59	66.7	15	Patients with undetermined syncope at intermediate risk

CV, cardiovascular; RCT, randomized controlled trial; OS, observational study; NA, not applicable.

Numeroso F et al. Clin Exp Emerg Med 2017;4(4):201-207



# Role of emergency department observation units in the management of patients with unexplained syncope: a critical review and meta-analysis

**Table 2.** Endpoints reported by the studies included

Study	Patients	Mean LOS hours (SD)	Admission rate	Etiological diagnosis	Short term outcomes
Shen et al. <sup>11</sup>	51	NA	22 (43.1)	34 (66.6)	NA
Rodriguez-Entem et al. <sup>12</sup>	199	19 (15)	20 (10.0)	131 (65.8)	NA
Sun et al. <sup>13</sup>	62	29 (15)	9 (14.5)	NA	2 (3.2)
Grossman et al. <sup>14</sup>	27	NA	NA	12 (44.4)	NA
Ungar et al. <sup>15</sup>	60	34 (8)	7 (11.6)	40 (66.6)	3 (5.0)
Numeroso et al. <sup>16</sup>	59	41 (17)	NA	42 (71.2)	0 (0.0)

Values are presented as number (%) unless otherwise indicated.

LOS, length of stay; SD, standard deviation; NA, not applicable.

**Table 3.** Pooled estimates for the outcomes

Outcome	Sample size	Pooled estimates, % (95% CI)
Mean length of stay in the EDOU	380	28.2 (26.7–29.7)
Etiological diagnosis	396	67.3 (58.1–75.9)
Admission rate	372	18.5 (7.8–32.4)
Serious outcomes	181	2.8 (0.4–7.2)

CI, confidence interval; EDOU, emergency department observation unit.

# 2018 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of syncope

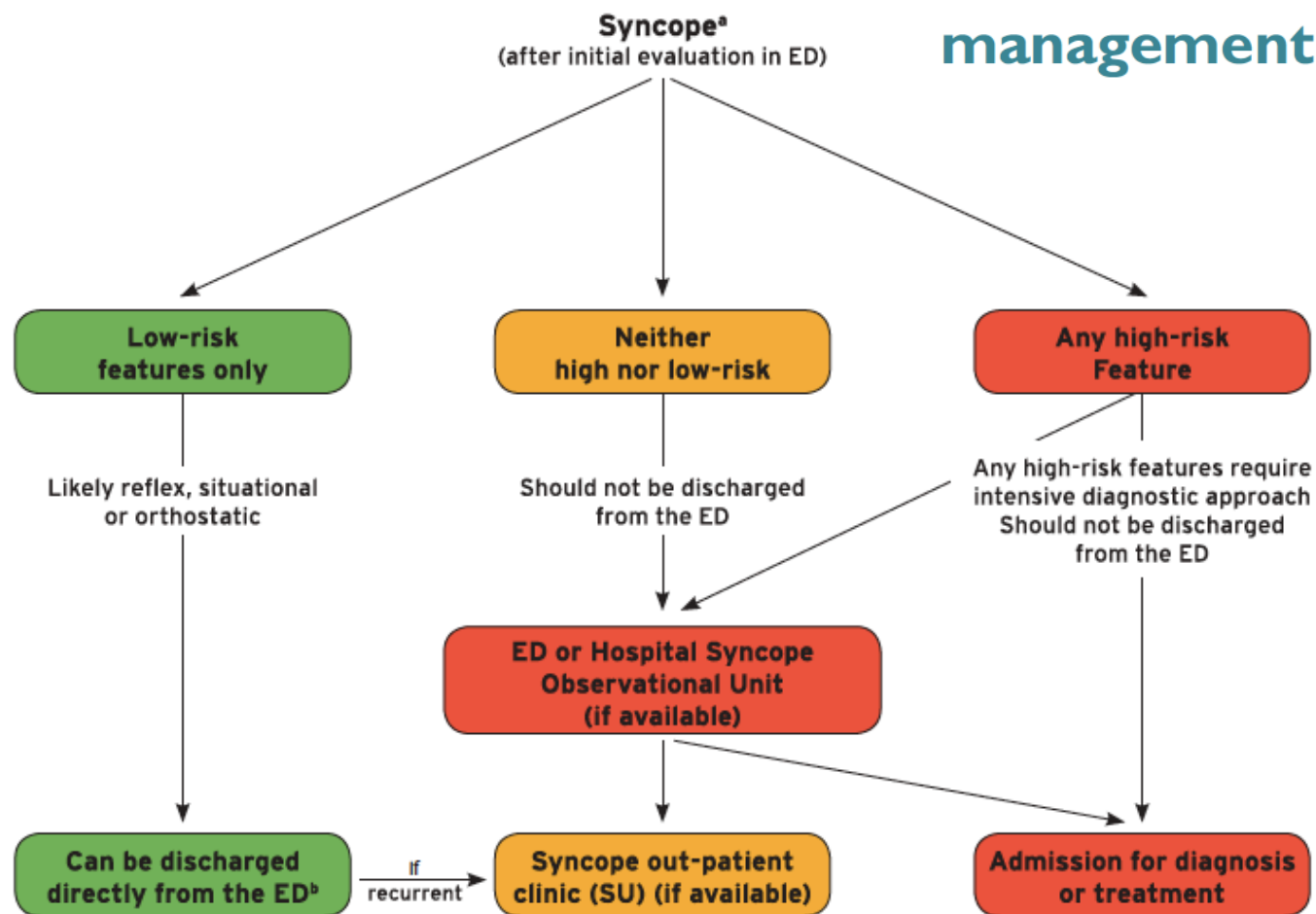
Author/year/country	Patients with T-LOC	Number admitted	7-30 day Death	7-30 day non-fatal severe outcome <sup>a</sup>	7-30 day non-fatal severe outcome identified in the ED	7-30 day non-fatal severe outcome <sup>a</sup> identified after initial visit
Costantino, 2008, Italy <sup>25</sup>	676	218 (32%)	5 (2.3%)	22 (10.1%)	10 (4.6%)	12 (5.5%)
Brignole, 2006, Italy <sup>26</sup>	465	178 (38%)	6 (3.4%)	10 (5.6%)	1 (0.6%)	5 (2.8%)
Reed, 2010, UK <sup>9</sup>	1100	541 (49%)	17 (3.1%)	10 (1.8%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)
Ungar, 2015, Italy <sup>34</sup>	295	92 (31%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Birnbaum, 2008, US <sup>27</sup>	713	613 (86%)	4 (0.7%)	1 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Grossman, 2007, US <sup>28</sup>	293	201 (69%)	7 (3.5%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Quinn, 2004, US <sup>29</sup>	684	376 (55%)	5 (1.3%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Quinn, 2006, US <sup>15</sup>	760	448 (59%)	3 (0.7%)	1 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Schladenhaufen, 2008, US <sup>30</sup>	517	312 (60%)	5 (1.6%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Sun, 2007, US <sup>31</sup>	477	277 (58%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Daccarett, 2011, US <sup>32</sup>	254	118 (46%)	1 (0.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Thiruganasambanda-moorthy, 2014, CAN <sup>33</sup>	505	62 (12%)	5 (8.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Thiruganasambanda-moorthy, 2015, CAN <sup>34</sup>	3662 <sup>b</sup>	474 (13%)	31 (6.5%)	10 (2.1%)	4 (0.8%)	12 (2.6%)
<b>Median (IQR)</b>		<b>49% (32-59)</b>	<b>0.8% (0.6-1.1)</b>	<b>10.3% (7.6-13.0)</b>	<b>6.9% (4.5-10.3)</b>	<b>3.6% (3.4-5.3)</b>

## Short-term outcome of syncope pts in ED

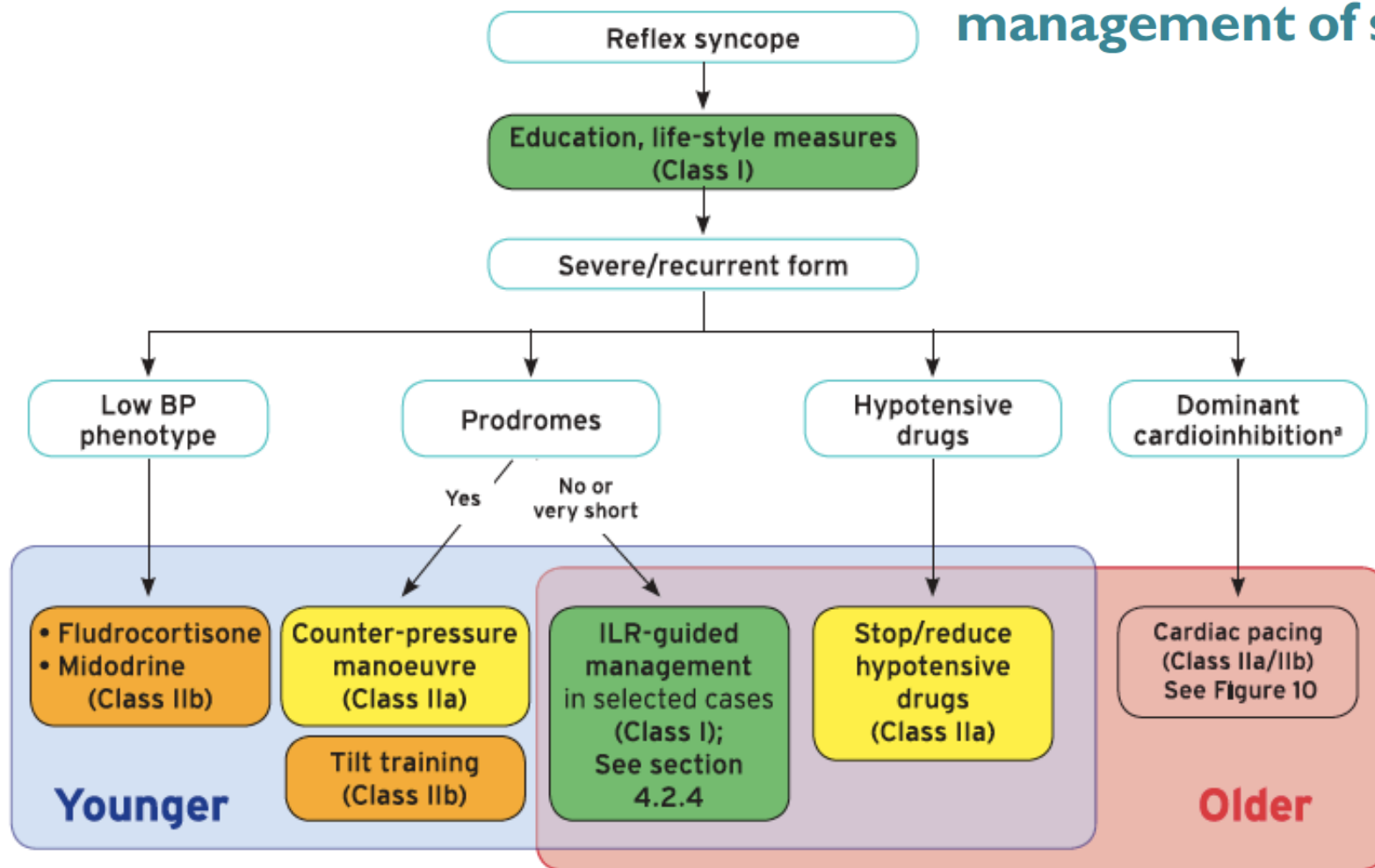
Average data of 10401 patients from 13 studies:	
Patients admitted, median (IQR)	<b>49% (32-59)</b>
Death within 7-30 days:	<b>0.8% (0.6-1.1)</b>
Non-fatal severe outcome <u>while in ED</u>	<b>6.9% (4.5-10.3)</b>
Non-fatal severe outcome <u>in the next 7-30 days</u>	<b>3.6% (3.4-5.3)</b>

<sup>a</sup>Nonfatal severe outcomes generally are defined as a significant new diagnosis, a clinical deterioration, serious injury with recurrence, or a significant therapeutic intervention; <sup>b</sup>3365 patients had 30 day follow-up.

## 2018 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of syncope



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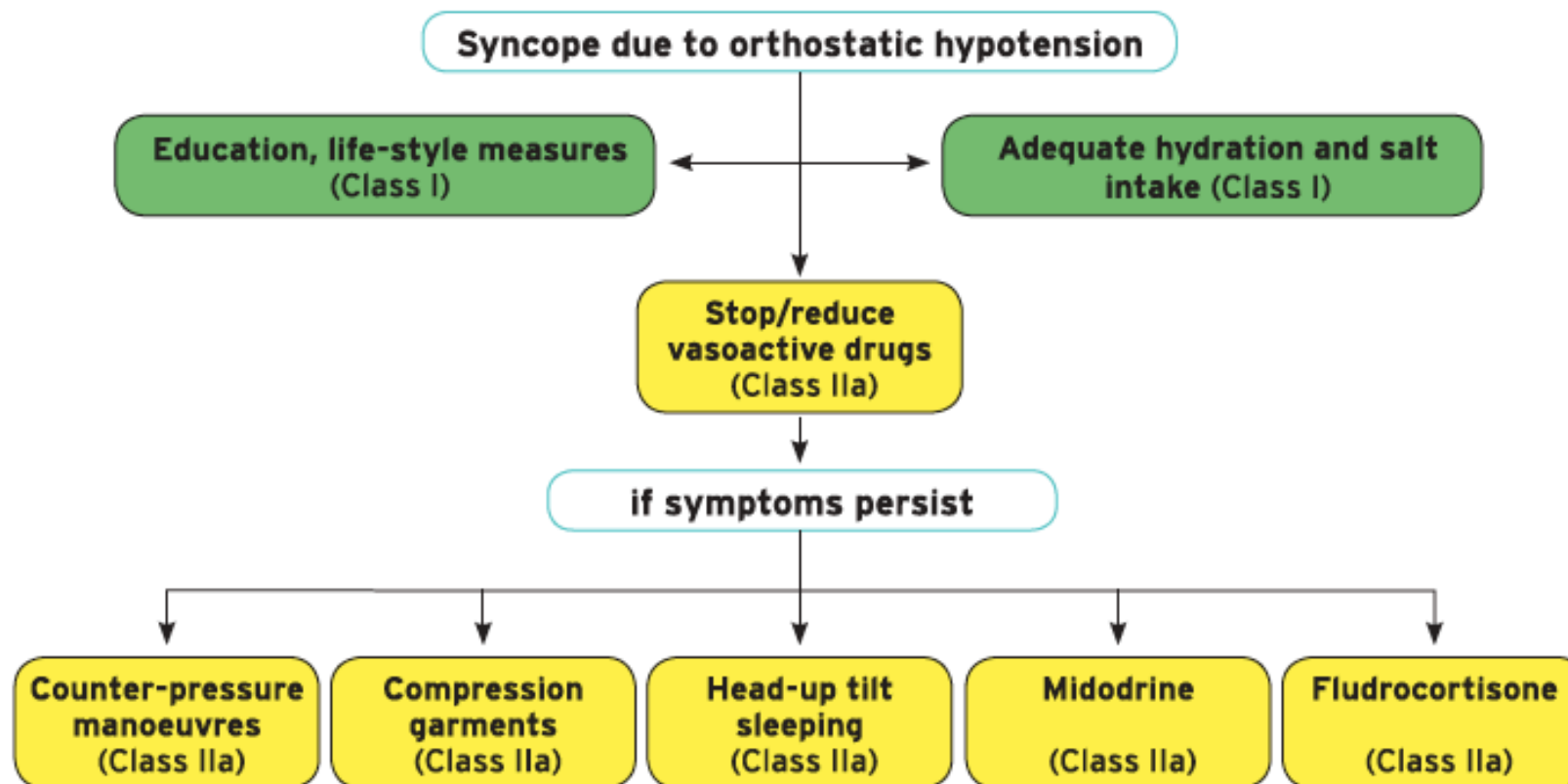
## Treatment of Reflex syncope (I)

### Treatment syncope: Counterpressure manoeuvres



Recommendations	Class	Level
<b>Education and life-style modification</b>		
1. Explanation of the diagnosis, provision of reassurance, explanation of risk of recurrence, avoidance of triggers and situations are indicated in all patients.	I	B
<b>Discontinuation/reduction of hypotensive therapy</b>		
2. Modification or discontinuation of hypotensive drug regimen should be considered in patients with vasodepressor syncope, if possible.	IIa	B
<b>Physical manoeuvres</b>		
3. Isometric PCM should be considered in patients with prodromes who are less than 60 years of age.	IIa	B
4. Tilt training may be considered for the education of young patients.	IIb	B

## 2018 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of syncope



# Evaluation of Patients with Syncope in the Emergency Department: How to Adjust Pharmacological Therapy

- Reflex syncope and orthostatic hypotension are the most frequent causes of transient loss of consciousness, considered as a cardiovascular cause of orthostatic intolerance.
- Anti-hypertensive, psychoactive medications, opioids and other classes of drugs have vaso-active effects and might predispose a patient to orthostatic hypotension and syncope.
- Accurate therapeutic recognition is an important step in the assessment of syncope.
- Proper management of the pharmacological therapy could reduce syncope recurrences and their consequences.

# 2018 ESC/ESH Guidelines for the management of arterial hypertension

Geriatric alliance



Age group	Office SBP treatment target ranges (mmHg)					Office DBP treatment target range (mmHg)
	Hypertension	+ Diabetes	+ CKD	+ CAD	+ Stroke <sup>2</sup> /TIA	
18 - 65 years	<b>Target to 130</b> or lower if tolerated <b>Not &lt;120</b>	<b>Target to 130</b> or lower if tolerated <b>Not &lt;120</b>	<b>Target to &lt;140 to 130</b> if tolerated	<b>Target to 130</b> or lower if tolerated <b>Not &lt;120</b>	<b>Target to 130</b> or lower if tolerated <b>Not &lt;120</b>	70–79
65 - 79 years <sup>b</sup>	<b>Target to 130-139</b> if tolerated	<b>Target to 130-139</b> if tolerated	<b>Target to 130-139</b> if tolerated	<b>Target to 130-139</b> if tolerated	<b>Target to 130-139</b> if tolerated	70–79
≥80 years <sup>b</sup>	<b>Target to 130-139</b> if tolerated	<b>Target to 130-139</b> if tolerated	<b>Target to 130-139</b> if tolerated	<b>Target to 130-139</b> if tolerated	<b>Target to 130-139</b> if tolerated	70–79
<b>Office DBP treatment target range (mmHg)</b>	70–79	70–79	70–79	70–79	70–79	



# Evaluation of Patients with Syncope in the Emergency Department: How to Adjust Pharmacological Therapy

	Age < 70	Age > 70 or Frailty	Disability
Low syncope risk and high CV risk	120–130 mmHg		
High syncope risk and low CV risk	130–140 mmHg	130–140 mmHg	<160 mmHg

# Orthostatic Hypotension As Cause of Syncope in Patients Older Than 65 Years Admitted to Emergency Departments for Transient Loss of Consciousness

Chiara Mussi,<sup>1</sup> Andrea Ungar,<sup>2</sup> Gianfranco Salvioli,<sup>1</sup> Carlo Menozzi,<sup>3</sup> Angelo Bartoletti,<sup>4</sup> Franco Giada,<sup>5</sup> Alfonso Lagi,<sup>6</sup> Irene Ponassi,<sup>7</sup> Giuseppe Re,<sup>8</sup> Raffaello Furlan,<sup>9</sup> Roberto Maggi,<sup>10</sup> and Michele Brignole,<sup>10</sup> for the Evaluation of Guidelines in Syncope Study 2 Group\*

Table 3. Multivariate Analysis

	OR	95% CI	<i>p</i>
Parkinson's disease	10.91	2.645–45.05	.001
Use of diuretics	3.73	1.23–11.28	.020
Use of nitrates	5.20	1.99–13.61	.001

*Note:* Other variables included in the model: age, sex, ischemic heart disease, hypertension, hypertensive heart disease, valvular heart disease, myocardopathy, other cardiac diseases, diabetes, ischemic cerebral diseases, other neurological diseases, electrocardiographic findings, type of drugs, daily dosage. CI = confidence interval; OR = odds ratio.

# Evaluation of Patients with Syncope in the Emergency Department: How to Adjust Pharmacological Therapy



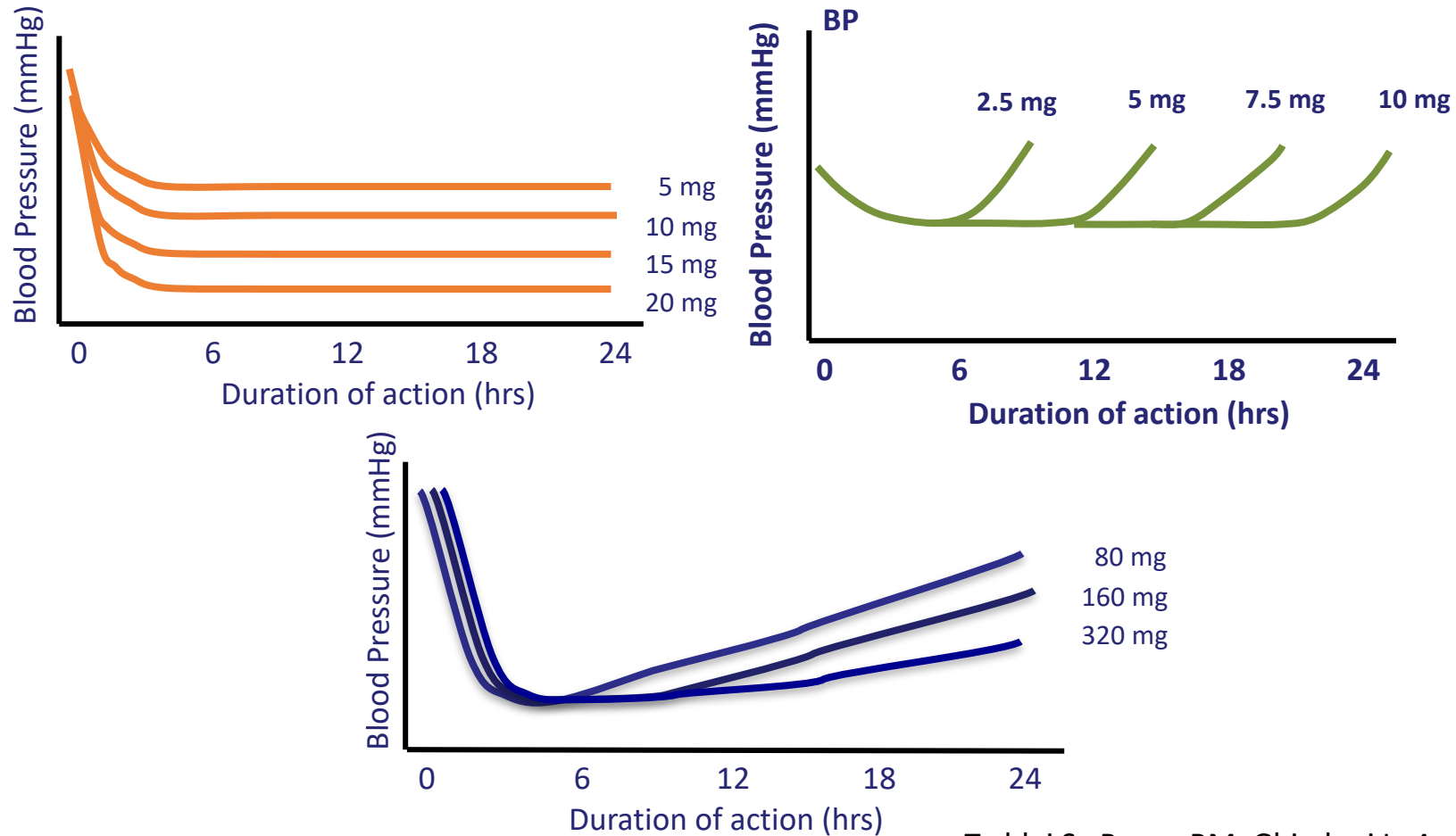
## Key Points

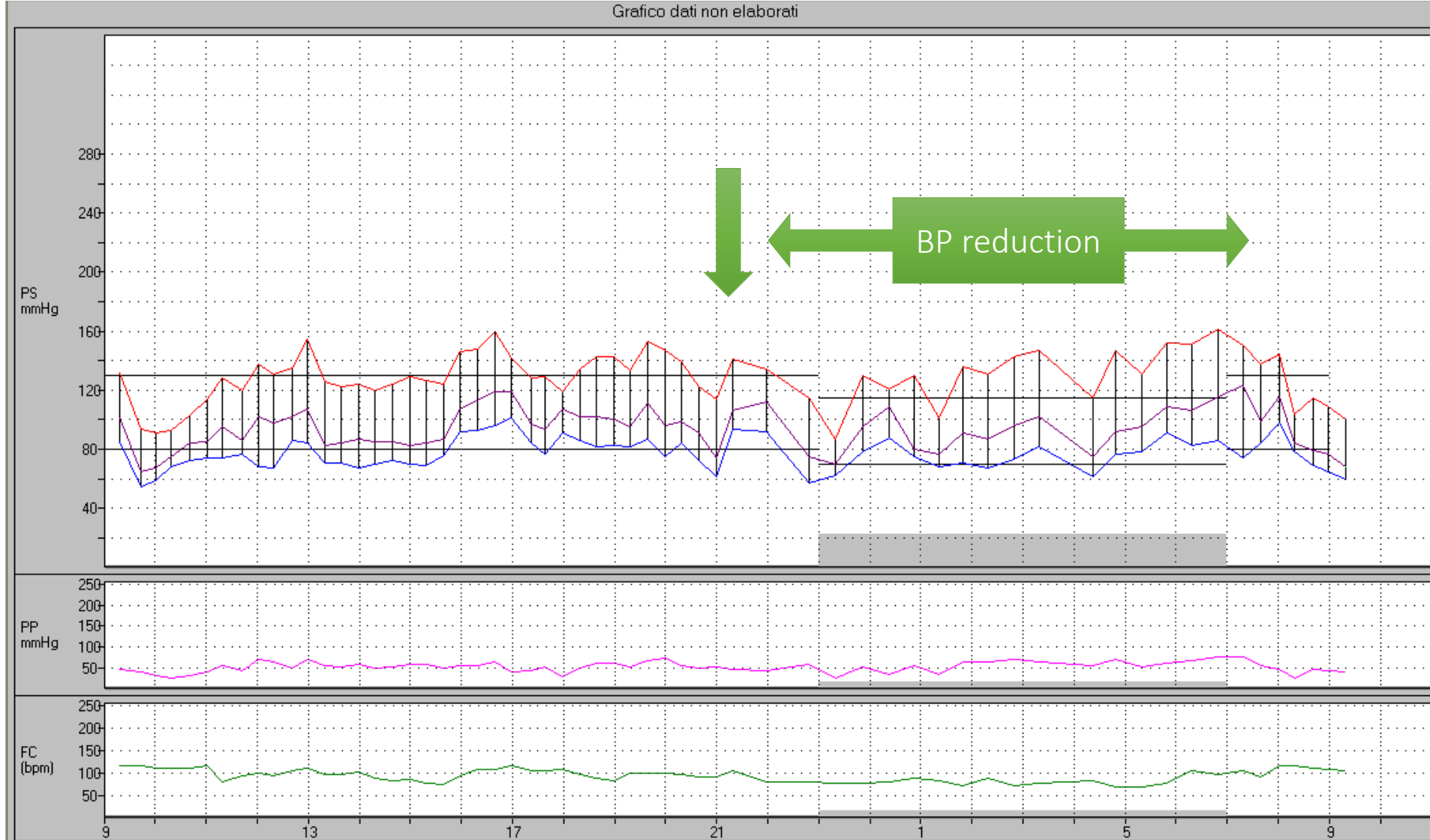
1. Considering the reduction or withdrawal of hypotensive medication.
2. *Considering changing molecules or therapy regimen (preferring bedtime administration, except for diuretics) when it is not possible to withdraw a hypotensive medication.*
3. Preferring selective beta-blockers instead of alpha- and beta-receptor blockers, when indicated.
4. Preferring uro-selective alpha-lytics in patients with BPH-associated LUTS (e.g., silodosin), when indicated.
5. Avoiding diuretics, unless specifically indicated as essential.
6. Considering renal and hepatic impairment in order to avoid drug accumulation.

*BPH: benign prostatic hyperplasia; LUTS: low urinary tract symptoms.*

# The correct administration of antihypertensive drugs according to the principles of clinical pharmacology

## Dose-response curves of antihypertensive drugs







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The Emergency Care Journal has been accepted to  
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## 2018 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of syncope

### The Task Force for the diagnosis and management of syncope of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)

Favour initial management in ED observation unit and/or fast-track to syncope unit	Favour admission to hospital
<p><b>High-risk features AND:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stable, known structural heart disease</li> <li>● Severe chronic disease</li> <li>● Syncope during exertion</li> <li>● Syncope while supine or sitting</li> <li>● Syncope without prodrome</li> <li>● Palpitations at the time of syncope</li> <li>● Inadequate sinus bradycardia or sinoatrial block</li> <li>● Suspected device malfunction or inappropriate intervention</li> <li>● Pre-excited QRS complex</li> <li>● SVT or paroxysmal atrial fibrillation</li> <li>● ECG suggesting an inheritable arrhythmogenic disorders</li> <li>● ECG suggesting ARVC</li> </ul>	<p><b>High-risk features AND:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Any potentially severe coexisting disease that requires admission</li> <li>● Injury caused by syncope</li> <li>● Need of further urgent evaluation and treatment if it cannot be achieved in another way (i.e. observation unit), e.g. ECG monitoring, echocardiography, stress test, electrophysiological study, angiography, device malfunction, etc.</li> <li>● Need for treatment of syncope</li> </ul>