

# SIGNS of Strangulation

Source: *Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence*, Chapter 16, *Intimate Partner Violence*. Oxford University Press, Inc. 2009.

Visible evidence of injury, observable to others as well as to the victim\*

## SCALP

- Petechiae
- Bald spots (*from hair being pulled*)
- Bump to the head (*from blunt force trauma or falling to the ground*)

## EARS

- Ringing in ears
- Petechiae on earlobe(s)
- Bruising behind the ear
- Bleeding in the ear

## EYES & EYELIDS

- Petechiae to eyeball
- Petechiae to eyelid
- Bloody red eyeball(s)
- Vision changes
- Droopy eyelid

## MOUTH

- Bruising
- Swollen tongue
- Swollen lips
- Cuts/abrasions
- Internal Petechiae

## FACE

- Petechiae (*tiny red spots-slightly red or florid*)
- Scratch marks
- Facial drooping
- Swelling

## NECK

- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Finger nail impressions
- Bruising (*thumb or fingers*)
- Swelling
- Ligature Marks

## CHEST

- Chest pain
- Redness
- Scratch marks
- Bruising
- Abrasions

Illustration by Yesenia Aceves



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\* The lack of visible signs does not eliminate the possibility of strangulation; invisible symptoms may also be present.