

Circulatory collapse

A condition where there is a **complete or almost complete interruption of blood circulation** due to interruption of cardiac activity, pulmonary embolism, sudden generalized vasodilatation, loss of intravascular fluids, etc. The main manifestation is hypotension. Blood pressure drops **below 100/60 mmHg**, conditioned by a decrease in cardiac output. Brain hypoperfusion leads to unconsciousness.

There are two forms of circulatory collapse:

- **cardiac arrest** – if the heart does not return spontaneously, the most common cause is ventricular fibrillation, e.g. in AMI,
- **syncope** – within a few seconds, heart activity is spontaneously restored.

According to the causes, syncope is:

- **cardiac** – causes in the heart, most often various arrhythmias (e.g. AV block III degree),
- **neurogenic** – causing parasympathetic activation (e.g. vagal reflexes), leading to bradycardia and vasodilation.

Links

related articles:

- Rival
- Hypovolemic shock
- Cardiogenic shock
- Obstructive shock
- Distribution shock
- Heart Failure

Source:

- PASTOR, Jan. *Langenbeck's medical web page* [online]. [cit. 30.5.2010]. <<https://langenbeck.webs.com/>>.