

# HOW TO DIFFERENTIATE SYNCOPE FROM EPILEPSY?

Roland Thijs MD PhD FRCP  
SEIN, HEEMSTEDE & LUMC LEIDEN (NL)  
rthijs@sein.nl



# CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

- **Grants**

Medtronic

ZonMW

Dutch Epilepsy Foundation

Nuts OHRA Foundation

AC Thomson Foundation

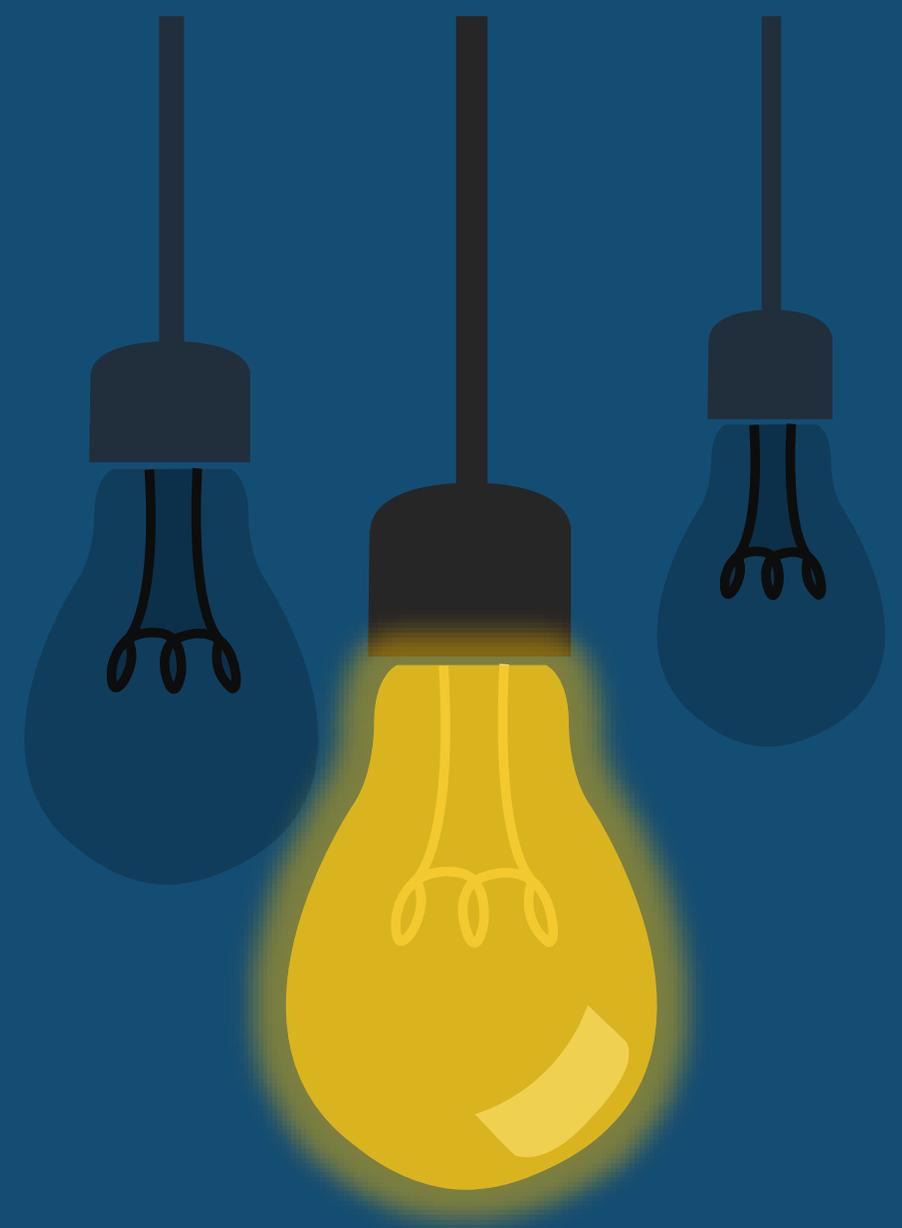
- **Consultancy / lecture fees**

Medtronic

Theravance

UCB

Novartis



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To detail the concept of **transient loss of consciousness** (TLOC) and to discuss the differential diagnosis
- ✓ To discuss the overlapping and the contrasting clinical features between syncope and seizures causing TLOC



# KEY MESSAGE

- ✓ Syncope common imitator of epilepsy
  - ✓ Many overlapping signs including jerks, postures & automatisms
- ✓ Circumstances/movement details & recovery may help
- ✓ Key symptoms of syncope similar for all causes
  - ✓ Beginning & end & clinical context may differ
- ✓ Ictale asystole
  - ✓ Temporale lobe sz followed by syncope



# WANT TO LEARN MORE?

[www.syncopedia.org](http://www.syncopedia.org)

ESC guidelines: Brignole et al, Eur Heart J 2018

## Semiology syncope

- Shmuelly et al. Neurology 2018
- Van Dijk et al. Brain 2014
- Wieling et al. Brain 2009

# QUESTIONS?

[r.d.thijs@lumc.nl](mailto:r.d.thijs@lumc.nl)

