

# INCIDENCE AND OUTCOMES OF ADULT SYNCOPES PRESENTATIONS TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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**No studies have specifically looked at the incidence of syncope or its outcomes within EMS. A better understanding of syncope presentations is crucial for the development of evidence-based guidelines.**

## Introduction

ED research into syncope has been extensive and has informed evidence-based practice.

The majority of ED presentations for syncope arrive by ambulance. Almost half of these being likely to have not benefited from transport.

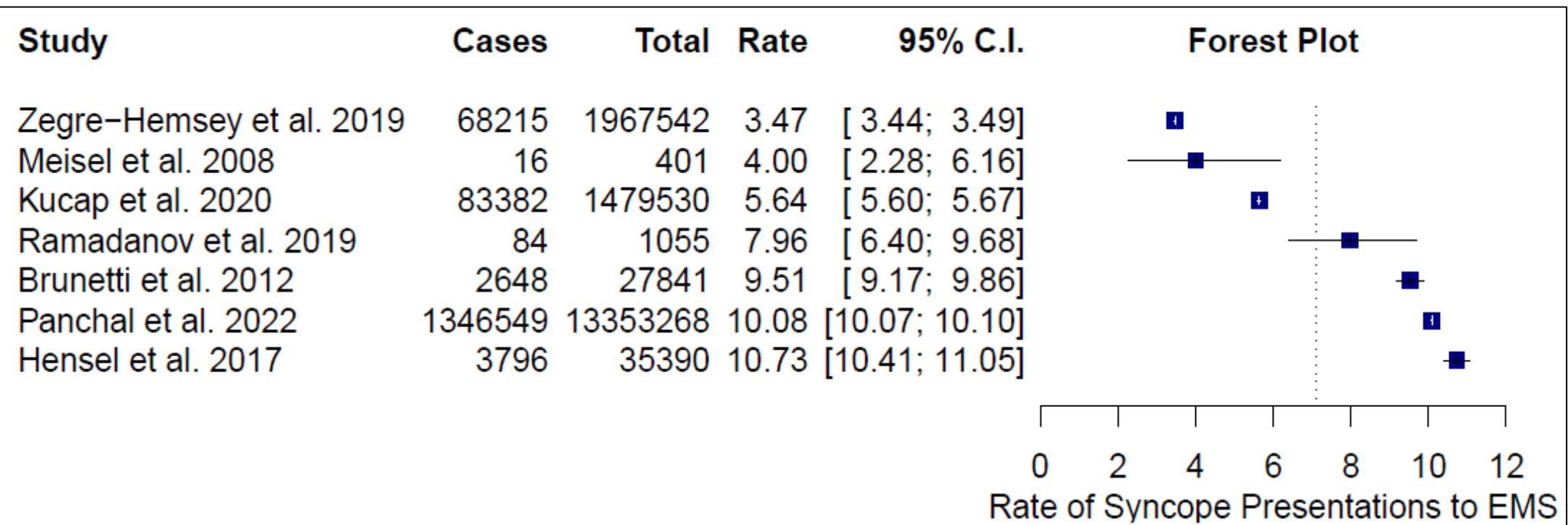
Paramedics are capable of providing the initial evaluation of syncope presentations and differentiating low from high-risk presentations.

## Objectives

Primary objective: Evaluate the incidence of syncope presentations to EMS amongst the current literature.

Secondary objectives: Evaluate patient demographics and any related outcomes, such as transportation rates and adverse outcomes.

Databases were searched on April 5<sup>th</sup> 2022: Emcare, AMED, Medline and CINAHL plus.



*Incidence of syncope from articles rated as good quality.*

## Results

Of 12 articles included in this study only 7 were rated as good quality. The reported incidence of syncope presentations ranged from 0.09% to 24%.

Meta-analysis could not be performed due to 100% heterogeneity for both  $I^2$  and  $X^2$ .

Only one study reported transportation rates, and another study reported the incidence of adverse outcomes.

## Discussion

There is no high-quality data specifically looking at syncope presentations to EMS and their associated outcomes.

Paramedics are well positioned to assess and risk-stratify syncope presentations

An improved understanding of syncope presentations within the prehospital setting is crucial for the development of evidence-based guidelines that can help guide clinical decision making by EMS personnel.

