A 62-year-old man without significant medical history presented to his doctor with repeated episodes of syncope. The episodes were always associated with micturition (often at night) and had caused falls resulting in head injury. His wife was particularly concerned, noting that he became apneic while sleeping. He was diagnosed with sleep apnea. A 24-hour Holter monitor was obtained as part of the syncope evaluation. While wearing the monitor, he awoke in a panic, feeling that something was very wrong, and he came directly to the emergency room. He was evaluated in the emergency room and was told he was fine. The patient insisted, however, that the Holter monitor be reviewed before he left the hospital. The Holter monitor displayed 8 asystolic pauses, including 1 pause of 21 seconds and another of 35 seconds, at which point he awoke abruptly (Figure). The etiology was felt to be malignant vasovagal syncope. On the basis of these results, he was admitted to the hospital and a dual-chamber pacemaker was placed. At 18 months of follow-up, the patient reports no more episodes of micturition syncope. He uses the pacemaker only 2% of the time. He has greater energy, and his wife reports that the sleep apnea is gone.

Acknowledgments
This research was conducted while Dr Glatter was a Pfizer/Society Women’s Health Research Scholar.
Twenty-four–hour Holter monitor showing 35-second asystolic pause (arrows).
Malignant Vasovagal Syncope
Kathryn A. Glatter, Nipavan Chiamvimonvat, Charles Whitcomb and Heather Bloom

Circulation. 2003;107:2987-2988
doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.0000068033.19278.F1
Circulation is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75231
Copyright © 2003 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved.
Print ISSN: 0009-7322. Online ISSN: 1524-4539

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the
World Wide Web at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/107/23/2987

Permissions: Requests for permissions to reproduce figures, tables, or portions of articles originally published
in Circulation can be obtained via RightsLink, a service of the Copyright Clearance Center, not the Editorial
Office. Once the online version of the published article for which permission is being requested is located,
click Request Permissions in the middle column of the Web page under Services. Further information about
this process is available in the Permissions and Rights Question and Answer document.

Reprints: Information about reprints can be found online at:
http://www.lww.com/reprints

Subscriptions: Information about subscribing to Circulation is online at:
http://circ.ahajournals.org//subscriptions/