



**Figure 4** Flow diagram for the initial evaluation and risk stratification of patients with syncope. BP = blood pressure; ECG = electrocardiogram; H&P exam = history and physical examination; TLOC = transient loss of consciousness.

**Table 6 High-risk features (that suggest a serious condition) and low-risk features (that suggest a benign condition) in patients with syncope at initial evaluation in the emergency department**

SYNCOPAL EVENT
<b>Low-risk</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associated with prodrome typical of reflex syncope (e.g. light-headedness, feeling of warmth, sweating, nausea, vomiting)<sup>36,49</sup></li> <li>• After sudden unexpected unpleasant sight, sound, smell, or pain<sup>36,49,50</sup></li> <li>• After prolonged standing or crowded, hot places<sup>36</sup></li> <li>• During a meal or postprandial<sup>51</sup></li> <li>• Triggered by cough, defaecation, or micturition<sup>52</sup></li> <li>• With head rotation or pressure on carotid sinus (e.g. tumour, shaving, tight collars)<sup>53</sup></li> <li>• Standing from supine/sitting position<sup>54</sup></li> </ul>
<b>High-risk</b>
<b>Major</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New onset of chest discomfort, breathlessness, abdominal pain, or headache<sup>26,44,55</sup></li> <li>• Syncope during exertion or when supine<sup>36</sup></li> <li>• Sudden onset palpitation immediately followed by syncope<sup>36</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Minor</b> (high-risk only if associated with structural heart disease or abnormal ECG):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No warning symptoms or short (&lt;10 s) prodrome<sup>36,38,49,56</sup></li> <li>• Family history of SCD at young age<sup>57</sup></li> <li>• Syncope in the sitting position<sup>54</sup></li> </ul>
PAST MEDICAL HISTORY
<b>Low-risk</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long history (years) of recurrent syncope with low-risk features with the same characteristics of the current episode<sup>58</sup></li> <li>• Absence of structural heart disease<sup>27,58</sup></li> </ul>
<b>High-risk</b>
<b>Major</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe structural or coronary artery disease (heart failure, low LVEF or previous myocardial infarction)<sup>26,27,35,55,59</sup></li> </ul>
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
<b>Low-risk</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Normal examination</li> </ul>