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3 **A haemodynamic network involving the insula, the cingulate, and the basal forebrain correlates with**
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5 **EEG synchronization phases of sleep instability**
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Abstract

The cyclic alternating pattern (CAP) encompasses the pseudo-periodic appearance of synchronized brain waves and rhythms and is considered a regulator of the NREM sleep vigilance level, reflecting sleep instability. To determine the brain regions responsible for this phenomenon, we scored and analyzed sleep fMRI data acquired with simultaneous EEG (EEG-fMRI). Group analysis revealed a set of brain areas showing statistically significant blood oxygen-level dependent (BOLD) signal correlated positively with the synchronization phase of the CAP, most prominent being the insula, the middle cingulate gyrus, and the basal forebrain. These areas may form a network acting as a synchronization pacemaker, controlling the level of NREM sleep vigilance and the sleeper's arousability.

Keywords: EEG-fMRI | cyclic alternating pattern | sleep | insula | cingulate | basal forebrain.

Statement of Significance

The cyclic alternating pattern (CAP) is an expression of the magnitude of sleep instability, manifesting as pseudo-periodic EEG synchronization phases, providing adaptation to environmental stimuli for the purpose of defense against perturbations. Our study shows that this phenomenon correlates with a haemodynamic network involving the insula, the cingulate and the basal forebrain. The constellation of these areas may act as a pacemaker of the CAP manifestation, as a result of the regulation of the vigilance level during sleep.

Introduction

The EEG of NREM sleep in humans is characterized by pseudo-periodic phasic events referred to as the cyclic alternating pattern (CAP)^{1, 2}. Two phases, consisting of a variety of sleep EEG waves and rhythms, alternate throughout NREM: a synchronization phase A (CAP-A), appearing as runs of regular or irregular high voltage EEG delta, with or without higher frequency components, standing out of the EEG background; and a de-synchronization phase B (CAP-B), appearing as lower-voltage EEG constituting the background of NREM³⁻⁵ (Figure 1). Although CAPs were first observed in comatose patients¹, where A-phases were found to be strongly related to increased muscle activity, heart rate and restlessness, and positively correlated to the clinical outcome⁶, it soon became apparent that CAPs are an essential part of normal sleep^{2, 7, 8}. CAPs can be elicited by somatosensory stimulation¹, and auditory perturbation⁹. Being a robust NREM microstructural element, the CAP has distinctive properties: a) the majority of sleep stage transitions are mediated by CAP sequences², b) CAP density and patterns vary both amongst sleep cycles¹⁰ and sleep stages¹¹, being more frequent in the first sleep cycles, and c) CAP patterns vary between the descending and ascending branches of NREM^{12, 13}, occurring predominantly during the descending NREM phases of each sleep cycle.

The CAP has been proposed as a gating mechanism supporting the continuation of sleep after its initiation and into the deeper stages of NREM. The rate of CAP-A/CAP-B cycling in NREM sleep decreases exponentially after sleep onset in parallel with the homeostatic decay of slow wave activity responding to sleep pressure according to the Borbély's S process¹⁴, predominating the descending branch of NREM of the first sleep cycles and increasing when environmental noise increases^{5, 15}. It is therefore surmised that the input-dependent CAP-A events are hypnagogic, contributing to the build-up of slow wave sleep, and following the course of the homeostatic process, which is considered to depend on cortical metabolism¹⁶.

During states of reduced vigilance, the CAP appears to have a fundamental role in supporting sleep

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3 maintenance by complementing sleep bi-stability¹⁷ with lability and reversibility¹⁶. The later provides
4 flexible adaptation to environmental stimuli for the system to shield itself from sensorial inputs.

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7 Consistent with the view of NREM sleep being an emergent property of loosely coupled local
8 processes¹⁸⁻²⁰, it has been proposed that the homeostatic pressure for sleep may be reflected locally as
9 EEG slowing. The processes providing the infra-slow oscillation (0.01–0.1 Hz) have been proposed to
10 reflect neural correlates of large-scale fluctuations, related to neuronal excitability and arousal,
11 appearing on the EEG as phases of the CAP^{16, 21}. Both metabolic and electrophysiological studies show
12 that the human NREM sleep is an active state largely driven by homeostatic sleep pressure and infra-
13 slow oscillations linked to that pressure. During the latter, brain activity is temporally organized by
14 spontaneous EEG rhythms in a regionally specific manner^{19, 20, 22, 23}. This relation of the temporal
15 organization of brain activity to local homeostasis confers importance to the investigation of the
16 metabolic correlates of the CAP in different brain areas.

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19 The neural correlates of the CAP have been investigated only recently, yet without convergence. EEG
20 spectrum-based source imaging has related the CAP to a distribution of frontal, midline and occipito-
21 parietal sources²⁴. Near-infrared spectroscopy on the forehead and systemic haemodynamics have
22 related the CAP to changes in global scalp, cortical, and systemic hemodynamic signals that resemble
23 the ones seen in arousal²⁵. EEG-fMRI is a well-documented non-invasive neuroimaging technique that
24 allows haemodynamic fluctuations associated with EEG phenomena to be mapped throughout the brain
25 volume²⁶⁻²⁹. By identifying blood oxygen-level dependent (BOLD) changes related to A phases of the
26 CAP, using EEG-fMRI, this study aims in determining the brain regions haemodynamically associated
27 with the CAP-A synchronization phase during NREM sleep.

51 52 53 **Methods**

Participants

Twenty-nine (29) subjects from a pool of 66 patients who had EEG-fMRI assessment for their epilepsy at St. Luke's Hospital, Thessaloniki, Greece during the period 2010-2016, were selected for this study.

Inclusion criteria were: 1) spontaneous achievement of more than 20 minutes of continuous uninterrupted NREM sleep of depth no less than stage II, 2) lack of epileptic seizures during the EEG-fMRI scan, and 3) MRI negative patients, or patients with topographically limited solitary lesions, including cortical dysplasia, polymicrogyria, hippocampal sclerosis, and chronic post-traumatic cortical changes, thereby ensuring that our study is free of effects owing to major structural cerebral anomalies that could affect the results. No sleep-promoting medication was administered to the selected subjects. Twenty-two (22) of the selected subjects were partially sleep-deprived the previous night (having had 3-4 hours of sleep) and had been awake for at least 10 hours prior to the recording as an attempt to increase their epileptic activity during the interictal EEG-fMRI study; seven (7) subjects slept spontaneously without prior sleep deprivation; thirteen (13) females; mean subject age: 22 years (range: 11-45) (Supplementary Table 1).

All subjects provided informed consent according to the Declaration of Helsinki. All procedures were approved by St. Luke's Ethics Committee.

EEG-fMRI acquisition parameters. Functional imaging consisted of gradient-echo T2*-weighted single-shot echo-planar (EPI) images (45 2.5mm slices of 0.3mm inter-slice distance, TE/TR: 45/4000msec, 90° flip angle, FOV 240cm², 96x96 matrix, iPAT), acquired by a 1.5T Avanto MR scanner (Siemens AG, Germany). A 32-channel MR-compatible electrode cap (BrainCap MR, EasyCap, Herrsching-Breitbrunn, Germany) was used for EEG, signals were amplified by x1500, band-pass filtered at 0.016Hz-1kHz, digitized at 16-bit and sampled at 5kHz by a MR-compatible BrainAmp system (BrainAmp MR plus, Brain Products, Munich, Germany).

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3 An additional derivation was used to record the electrocardiogram (ECG) and all electrode impedances
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5 were kept below 10kOhm throughout the recording in the MR scanner. All neurophysiological data
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7 were recorded on workstations located outside the MR scanner room through fiber-optic cables,
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9 synchronized with the MR scanner clock and a scanner-derived trigger signal initiating each EPI
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11 volume acquired. EEG-fMRI sessions were either 30 or 60 minutes long.
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17 **EEG processing.** The EEG gradient- and cardiac-related artifacts were removed off-line by application
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19 of averaged artifact template subtraction methods embedded in the BrainVision Analyzer 2.0 software
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21 (Brain Products, Munich, Germany)³⁰. The sleep EEG was scored based on the standard AASM
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23 criteria³¹, using a 1-70 Hz display filter. CAPs were determined visually based on the criteria set forth
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25 by the Parma group³². The A phases of CAP were identified and marked as blocks of mixed patterns of
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27 high-voltage waves and rhythms (including, but not exclusively, vertex waves, K-complexes, spindles,
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29 delta waves, theta and alpha runs), occurring during NREM sleep, contrasted to the background low-
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31 voltage EEG (B phase of CAP). NREM sleep stages were scored, with NREM I being the lightest stage
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33 and slow wave sleep (SWS) being the deepest. A CAP sequence was determined by the succession of
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35 at least 2 CAP cycles (a pair of A-B phases makes a CAP cycle). The minimal duration of a CAP-A or
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37 B phase was set to 2 sec and the maximum was 60 sec; absence of CAP sequence for more than 60 sec
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39 was scored as non-CAP (NCAP). In this study we did not account for the different CAP-A subtypes,
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41 but rather treated CAP-A phases as a single EEG phenomenon. However, A-phases characterized by
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43 increased somatomotor activity, accompanied by profound muscle artifact, and alpha-band EEG
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45 content were not included in the study. Marking of ambiguous onsets and offsets of CAP-A blocks was
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47 facilitated in a case by case manner by butterfly plots (Figure 1b), as well as time-frequency analysis,
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49 the latter combining Morlet wavelet transform (power measurements, linear frequency range: 1-70 Hz,
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51 step: 0.5 Hz, central frequency: 1 Hz, time resolution 3 sec, with 1/f compensation for spectral
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3 flattening), enhancing the high-frequency content of the signal, and multitaper fast fourier transform
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5 (FFT; Hanning taper, range: 1-70 Hz, step: 0.5 Hz, modulation factor: 10, time resolution: 200 msec,
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7 time step: 50 msec), enhancing the low frequency content of the EEG (Figure 1c).
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12 **fMRI processing.** The first 2 EPI volumes of the fMRI series were discarded from further analysis to
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14 allow for T1 saturation. In accordance with standard fMRI processing practice, the rest of the images
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16 were spatially realigned, normalized in MNI space, and spatially smoothed with a cubic Gaussian
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18 kernel of 8 mm full width at half maximum. A General Linear Model (GLM) was built using SPM12
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20 (www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/SPM12). CAP-A phases were included in the GLM as the main regressor and
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22 modeled as blocks of variable duration that were convolved with the canonical Haemodynamic
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24 Response Function (HRF). Since CAP-A phases exhibit variable durations from 2 to 60 sec³, a
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26 temporal filter of 128 TR was used to account for signal changes of up to 2 minutes. CAP-B phases
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28 served as baseline. Five sets of confound regressors were added to the GLM: a) the periods of relaxed
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30 wakefulness, that is, the onset of the recording where our subjects were relaxed and their EEG was
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32 characterized by abundance of the posterior alpha rhythm (modelled as blocks of variable duration); b)
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34 the Non-CAP periods, according to the scoring criteria described in the previous subsection (modelled
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36 as blocks of variable duration); c) the interictal epileptic discharges, that is, the individual paroxysmal
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38 epileptic EEG elements in the form of spike-waves, sharp waves or polyspike activity (modelled as
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40 short transients when occurring in isolation, or blocks of variable duration when occurring either in
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42 clusters or as persistent epileptic discharges); d) a set of cardiac confound regressors was included in
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44 the GLM to account for periodic pulse-related BOLD changes, as determined by the ECG R-wave³³; e)
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46 motion-related effects, determined by 3 displacement (x, y, z, in mm) and 3 rotational (pitch, roll, yaw,
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48 in degrees) metrics of the head after spatial re-alignment of the images, were also included in the GLM
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50 as 24 regressors of the 6 realignment parameters Volterra expansion³⁴, plus Heaviside step function
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3 combinations to account for large motion effects ("scan nulling" regressors with 0.2 mm threshold)³⁵.
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5 The null hypothesis of the GLM is that there is no cluster of voxels BOLD-correlated to the EEG
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7 manifestations of sleep instability. At the level of individual subjects, maps of t-plus contrast for the
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9 effect of CAP-A were obtained with a significance threshold of $p < 0.001$. We then sought to identify
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11 typical effects using a random effects model based on the contrast maps generated at the individual
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13 subject level. We used multiple regression with 3 covariate vectors accounting for the group variability
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15 in age, gender and state during the scan (partially sleep-deprived or not) to remove systematic
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17 interference from BOLD signal changes owing to putative individual syndrome-related epileptic
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19 activity and presented results both uncorrected ($p < 0.001$) and family-wise error (FWE) corrected for
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21 multiple comparisons ($p < 0.05$) based on random field theory³⁶. Subjects were further separated into
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23 groups in terms of age (3 groups: 10-19, 20-29, and more than 30 years old groups), gender (2 groups),
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25 and partial sleep deprivation (2 groups: partial sleep and non-sleep deprived groups). One-sample t-test
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27 uncorrected ($p < 0.001$) ANOVA was used for all derived groups. Conjunction analysis was in turn
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29 used between groups of each category to assess the consistency of random effects analysis clusters
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31 against outliers that may bias group-level statistics³⁷.
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40 **Results**

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42 Thirty subjects underwent a total of 1,450 minutes of EEG-fMRI scanning and achieved a total of
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44 1,058 minutes of NREM sleep, within which a total of 2,388 CAP-A phases were identified and in turn
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46 contrasted against the CAP-B desynchronization phases at the individual subject level (Supplementary
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48 Figure 1, Supplementary Table 1).
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51 We found positive BOLD changes correlated to the CAP-A phase in the following regions with
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53 bilateral distribution: the insula (Brodmann area 14/15; Left: $x=-36, y=0, z=6, p_{\text{FWE-corr}} < 0.0001, q_{\text{FDR-}}$
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55 $\text{corr} < 0.0001, T = 9.55, Z = 6.14, p_{\text{uncorr}} < 0.0001$; Right: $x=44, y=0, z=4, p_{\text{FWE-corr}} < 0.0001, q_{\text{FDR-corr}} <$
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0.0001, $T = 11.88$, $Z = 6.82$, $p_{\text{uncorr}} < 0.0001$), the middle cingulate gyrus (Brodmann area 24; $x=-4$, $y=2$, $z=40$, $p_{\text{FWE-corr}} < 0.0001$, $q_{\text{FDR-corr}} < 0.0001$, $T = 9.34$, $Z = 6.07$, $p_{\text{uncorr}} < 0.0001$), and the basal forebrain (Brodmann area 25; Left: $x=-20$, $y=2$, $z=-12$, $p_{\text{FWE-corr}} < 0.0001$, $q_{\text{FDR-corr}} = 0.007$, $T = 9.03$, $Z = 5.97$, $p_{\text{uncorr}} < 0.0001$; Right: $x=16$, $y=-2$, $z=-6$, $p_{\text{FWE-corr}} < 0.0001$, $q_{\text{FDR-corr}} = 0.013$, $T = 8.62$, $Z = 5.82$, $p_{\text{uncorr}} < 0.0001$) (Figure 2). No suprathreshold values were derived for each of the 3 covariates (age, gender, state) of multiple regression, for both negative and positive correlation to the main variable. Group level one-way ANOVA and conjunction analysis confirmed the spatial pattern of the CAP-A BOLD correlates in all age and gender groups (Supplementary Figure 2, 3), as well as in subjects who were partially sleep-deprived prior to the scan (Supplementary Figure 4).

Discussion

In this sleep EEG-fMRI study, we selected recordings from 30 subjects in whom long periods of NREM sleep were captured during functional MRI scanning. We identified NREM periods of CAP sequences and marked the A-phases characterized by EEG synchronization. The group analysis revealed prominent CAP-A related BOLD changes in the insula, the middle cingulate gyrus and the basal forebrain. The hereby revealed consistency of BOLD changes strongly associated with the CAP-A phases support the authenticity of the CAP as an EEG phenomenon of NREM sleep. In addition, our results retrospectively validate the EEG scoring criteria for CAP definition as initially set by the Parma group^{3, 32}.

The insular involvement stands out as a prominent feature of CAP-A related BOLD signal changes in this study, along with concordant changes of the cingulate cortex and the basal frontal region. This pattern is consistent with anatomical tracing studies in primates³⁸ confirming dense insular interconnections with the cingulate cortex^{39, 40} and limbic areas^{41, 42}. The insula is a known node of sensory and autonomic information processing. Acute intraoperative cortical electrical stimulation has

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3 multiple times verified its wide functional diversity, as it can produce motor, somatosensory (including
4 generalized sensations of warmth and cold) and auditory responses, pain, speech and oropharyngeal
5 disturbances, as well as autonomic-vegetative responses such as hypogastric sensations, respiratory
6 acceleration, anxiety attacks, and rotation/tension sensation⁴³⁻⁴⁷. However, most interesting is the role
7 of the insula as a key structure for switching between the resting and the alert brain states⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰, as well
8 as mediating focal attention⁵¹. The central role of the insula underlying CAP-A phases is consistent
9 with its function as a node of converging multimodal, exteroceptive and interoceptive stimuli,
10 complemented by its relationship to behavioral alertness and attention.
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21 The implication of the cingulate gyrus in sleep is no surprise, as literature has already revealed the
22 contribution of the posterior cingulate in the generation of SWS⁵², the contribution of the middle
23 cingulate in the generation of the spontaneous K-complex of NREM sleep stage II^{53, 54} and vertex
24 waves⁵⁵, as well as that of the anterior cingulate for fast and slow sleep spindles generation⁵⁶, and for
25 all lower-frequency bands in MEG studies⁵⁷. As the EEG expression of the CAP-A phases comprise an
26 irregular constellation of the above rhythms and waves, the BOLD-correlated signal changes over the
27 cingulate cortex could be attributed to their generation. However, there is an alternative/complementary
28 explanation stemming from the fact that in the alert brain states, the cingulate has been highly
29 correlated to the initiation of voluntary complex motor behavior⁵⁸; the middle cingulate specifically for
30 spontaneous action intention⁵⁹ and pre-movement activity for voluntary actions⁶⁰. More importantly,
31 the activation of the middle cingulate has been reliably shown to precede sleepwalking episodes⁶¹ and
32 NREM parasomnia arousals^{62, 63}. This evidence, combined with the hypothesis that the CAP is an EEG
33 expression of the level of vigilance during human sleep, could set a key role for the middle cingulate in
34 the primary CAP-A network as an anticipatory/preparatory region for motor reactivity and
35 responsiveness.
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3 Of particular interest is the involvement of the basal frontal region, that has been identified as an
4 important structure in the sleep-wake control⁶⁴⁻⁶⁶, functionally interacting with pontine nuclei to
5 regulate breathing⁶⁷, regulating vigilance through a balanced mechanism between cholinergic and
6 GABAergic projections to the cortex^{68, 69}. In addition, the basal forebrain has been reliably shown by
7 fMRI to have high correlation of response to visceral stimuli, such as heart rate and blood pressure
8 alterations⁷⁰, features known to accompany CAP-A phases during sleep^{5, 71}. However, most interesting
9 in the context of our findings is the cognitive role of the basal forebrain in decision-making and error
10 monitoring procedures, integrated through coordinated anterior insular interactions⁷²⁻⁷⁴. As shown, the
11 insula conveys error-related signals to the basal forebrain in order to promote learning and adaptive
12 behavior⁷⁵. In the context of CAP being a manifestation of the vigilance level during sleep, the basal
13 forebrain could be mediating adaptive procedures to the sleeping environment.

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28 Previous attempts to delineate the neural correlates of the CAP through other modalities have been few
29 and did not converge to a robust network. Source imaging based on EEG time-frequency analysis of
30 the CAP resulted in anterior frontal and midline sources for the low-frequency EEG constituents of the
31 CAP and posterior occipito-parietal sources for the higher frequencies²⁴. The use of localized near-
32 infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) showed diffuse cortical, and systemic hemodynamic signals related to the
33 CAP under the probe, resembling arousal patterns²⁵. Although both techniques are limited by their low
34 spatial resolution, the diffuse character of cortical activations encountered in our EEG-fMRI single-
35 subject analysis (Supplementary Figure 1) is concordant with the results of both studies. The high
36 spatial resolution of the EEG-fMRI allowed us to reveal a cluster of cortical regions strongly correlated
37 to the A phases of the CAP, whose activity is unlikely to be picked up by either the EEG or NIRS.
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The fact that all participants suffered from epilepsy, given the known co-existence of interictal
discharges with CAP-A phases, constitutes a limitation in this study. However, potential biases were
treated at both the individual and group levels. At the single-subject level, each individual GLM

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3 included interictal epileptiform activity of scalp EEG as a regressor in order to account for the
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5 respective effects. Final results were validated only from random effects and conjunction analysis that,
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7 given the variable distribution of our subject's pathologies (Supplementary Table 1), we expect have
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9 confidently eliminated effects owing to potential syndrome-related false-positive correlations. Another
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11 limitation this project faced is the technical inability to study the different CAP subtypes⁵, due to the
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13 increased somatomotor activity that accompanies one of them (CAP-A3) and severely distorts the
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15 echo-planar images acquired. Given the fact that CAP-A1 and CAP-A2 subtypes are fairly similar in
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17 terms of both including high-amplitude low-frequency hypersynchronous EEG elements, combined
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19 with the fact they are both expressions of the vigilance level during sleep, we decided to focus this
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21 work on the correlates of the CAP as a sequence alone without suggesting that the two subtypes are one
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23 and the same phenomenon.
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28 Our findings lead us to hypothesize that the CAP-A correlated haemodynamic network acts as a
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30 synchronization pacemaker, orchestrating the reactive EEG grapho-elements into synchrony in order to
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32 control the level of NREM sleep vigilance and the sleeper's arousability. The constituents of this brain
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34 network can mediate arousing stimuli that have the potential to initiate the CAP sequence, produce its
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36 distinctive EEG pattern, and manifest its somatomotor and autonomic correlates, as well as account for
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38 the enhanced reactivity of CAP-A phases to subliminal stimulation⁵. The insula, as a multimodal stimuli
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40 processing and state-switching node, can either maintain sleep continuity or switch to a higher level of
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42 vigilance depending on the nature of the perturbation. The cingulate at the same time can be involved in
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44 preparing potential motor components of the reaction to the arousing stimulus that tends to de-stabilize
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46 sleep. The basal forebrain can in turn monitor the insular behavior and mediate efficient adaptation to
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48 the environmental perturbations. In addition, the hereby revealed consistency of BOLD changes-derived
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50 spatial pattern strongly associated with the CAP-A phases retrospectively validate the EEG scoring
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52 criteria for CAP definition as initially set by the Parma group³² and further support the authenticity of
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3 the CAP as an EEG phenomenon of NREM sleep.
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28 **Note** 29

30 *Conflict of interest statement.* The authors have no conflict of interest to disclose.
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Figure Legends

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Abbreviations

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Supplementary Figure 1. Fixed effects analysis CAP-A correlates. Glass brain-overlaid, fixed effects analysis-derived, uncorrected contrast maps of CAP-A synchronization phases from each of the 30 subjects (T subscript denotes degrees of freedom). Notice the high variability of BOLD signal across subjects, that makes the derivation of a common pattern difficult.

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Supplementary Figure 4. Random effects and conjunction analysis across partially sleep-deprived and non sleep-deprived groups. (a,b) BOLD correlates of the CAP-A synchronization phase for 22 partially sleep-deprived subjects, projected on glass brain and overlaid on a normalized T1 brain. (c,d) BOLD

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For Review Only

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3 **TABLES**
4

5 Supplementary Table 1. Demographic, pathology/treatment and EEG-fMRI recording data of the selected participants (L: left, R: right, B:
6
7 bilateral, FLE: frontal lobe epilepsy, PLE: parietal lobe epilepsy, TLE: temporal lobe epilepsy, ILE: insular lobe epilepsy, OLE: occipital
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9 lobe epilepsy, JAE: juvenile absence epilepsy, JME: juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, IGE: idiopathic generalized epilepsy, CBZ:
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11 carbamazepine, CLM: clobazam, LCM: lacosamide, LEV: levetiracetam, LTG: lamotrigine, OXC: oxcarbazepine, PB: phenobarbital, RUF:
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13 rufinamide, TPM: topiramate, VPA: valproic acid, ZNS: zonisamide, *: spontaneous sleep after partial deprivation, SWS: slow wave sleep).
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| Subjects | Age | Sex | Diagnosis | Anti-epileptic medication | Seizure frequency | Scan time (min) | Total NREM sleep time (min) | NREM Sleep stages | CAP-As |
|----------|-----|-----|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | 12 | M | PLE (B) | LEV, OXC, VPA | 2-3/day | 30 | 27 | I, II, SWS | 31 |
| 2 | 30 | M | JME | VPA | 3-4/year | 60 | 23 | I, II | 41 |
| 3 | 11 | M | OLE (L) | LEV, LTG, OXC, VPA | 5-10/day | 30 | 23* | I, II | 45 |
| 4 | 14 | F | OLE (R) | LCM, LEV, VPA | 2-3/week | 60 | 51* | I, II | 128 |
| 5 | 24 | M | TLE (R) | LEV, OXC, | 5-10/month | 60 | 48 | I, II, SWS | 107 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|---------|-----------------------|------------|----|-----|------------|-----|
| | | | | VPA | | | | | |
| 6 | 11 | M | FLE (R) | LEV, VPA | 1-3/day | 60 | 33* | I, II, SWS | 111 |
| 7 | 16 | F | TLE (R) | CBZ, TPM | 1-2/week | 30 | 27* | I, II, SWS | 45 |
| 8 | 16 | M | FLE (L) | CBZ, LEV | 3-4/year | 60 | 43* | I, II | 56 |
| 9 | 25 | F | PLE (B) | CBZ, LEV, VPA, ZNS | 15-20/day | 60 | 56* | I, II, SWS | 69 |
| 10 | 31 | M | TLE (R) | LEV, OXC | 1-2/month | 60 | 21 | I, II | 52 |
| 11 | 11 | F | OLE (L) | LEV, RUF | 3-5/month | 30 | 24* | I, II, SWS | 60 |
| 12 | 38 | F | TLE (R) | OXC, TPM | 4-10/year | 60 | 53 | I, II, SWS | 71 |
| 13 | 15 | F | FLE (R) | CLM, VPA | 10-30/day | 60 | 51* | I, II, SWS | 153 |
| 14 | 19 | F | TLE (L) | CLM, LEV, OXC | 8-20/month | 30 | 26 | I, II | 57 |
| 15 | 19 | M | PLE (R) | LEV, OXC | 1-4/day | 30 | 25* | I, II, SWS | 49 |
| 16 | 18 | F | TLE (R) | LEV, OXC, LCM | 2-4/week | 60 | 49* | I, II, SWS | 150 |
| 17 | 27 | F | FLE (L) | CLM, LCM, TPM, VPA | 1-4/week | 30 | 25 | I, II, SWS | 53 |

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|----|----|---|---------|-----------------------|-------------|----|-----|------------|-----|
| 18 | 35 | M | FLE (L) | CBZ, OXC | 2-3/week | 30 | 27* | I, II, SWS | 50 |
| 19 | 30 | M | FLE (R) | CBZ, OXC, ZNS | 1-5/week | 30 | 24* | I, II | 40 |
| 20 | 20 | M | TLE (L) | LEV, OXC | 1-4/month | 60 | 49* | I, II, SWS | 111 |
| 21 | 17 | F | FLE (L) | CBZ, LTG | 1-2/month | 60 | 54* | I, II, SWS | 218 |
| 22 | 19 | M | FLE (L) | LEV, OXC, VPA | 3-7/week | 60 | 48* | I, II, SWS | 98 |
| 23 | 13 | M | IGE | LEV, TPM, VPA | 10-30/day | 60 | 51* | I, II, SWS | 131 |
| 24 | 42 | F | TLE (R) | LEV, OXC | 1-2/week | 60 | 42* | I, II, SWS | 71 |
| 25 | 13 | F | ILE (L) | CBZ, OXC | 1-2/month | 60 | 28* | I, II | 66 |
| 26 | 27 | F | TLE (R) | LEV, OXC, LCM | 1-3/week | 60 | 25* | I, II | 56 |
| 27 | 35 | M | ILE (L) | CLB, LTG, OXC, VPA | 10-20/month | 60 | 55* | I, II, SWS | 97 |
| 28 | 27 | M | FLE (R) | VPA | 1/month | 60 | 22* | I, II | 38 |
| 29 | 45 | M | FLE (R) | OXC, PB | 1-6/month | 40 | 28* | I, II, SWS | 134 |

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| Total: 1,450 | Total: 1,058 | Total: 2,388 |
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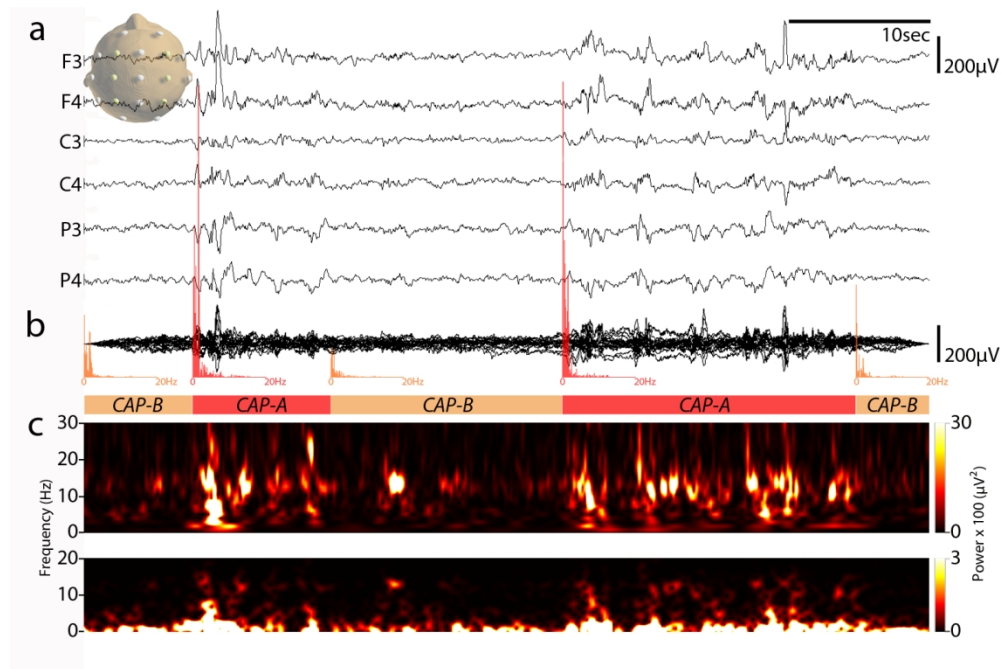


Figure 1. The NREM cyclic alternating pattern (CAP). (a) Sleep EEG with two phases of synchronization standing out of the NREM background. (b) Butterfly plot of all EEG electrodes for the same period, overlaid with cumulative spectral power charts for each scored CAP-A and CAP-B phase. (c) Wavelet and FFT-based time-frequency plots derived from F4 electrode showing the contrast between phases of synchronization (CAP-A) and de-synchronization (CAP-B) in the frequency domain.

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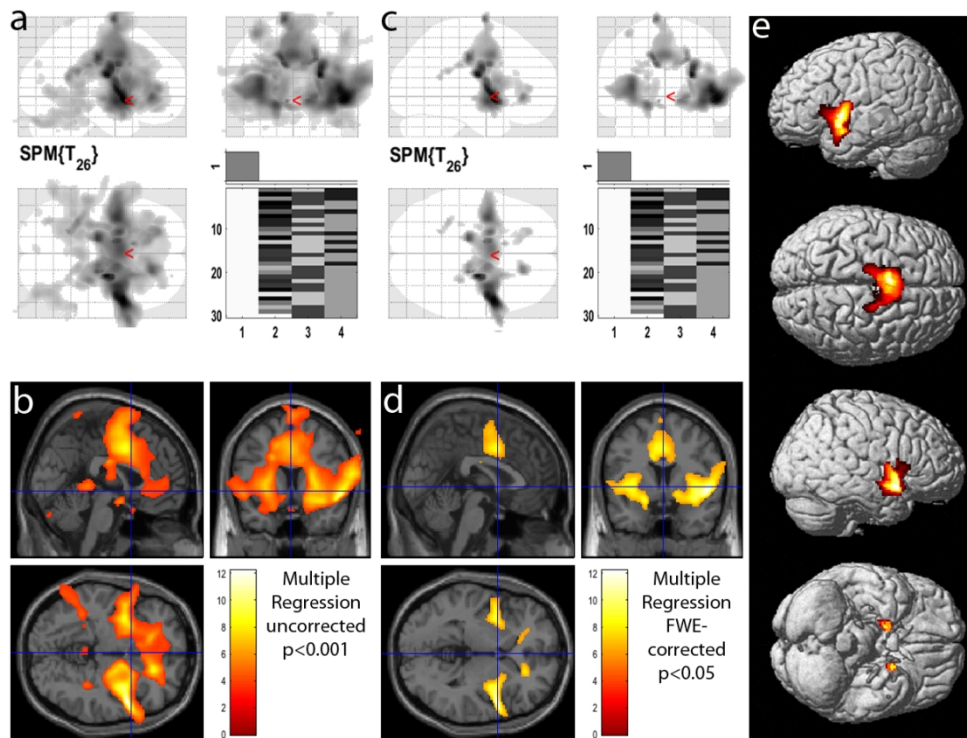
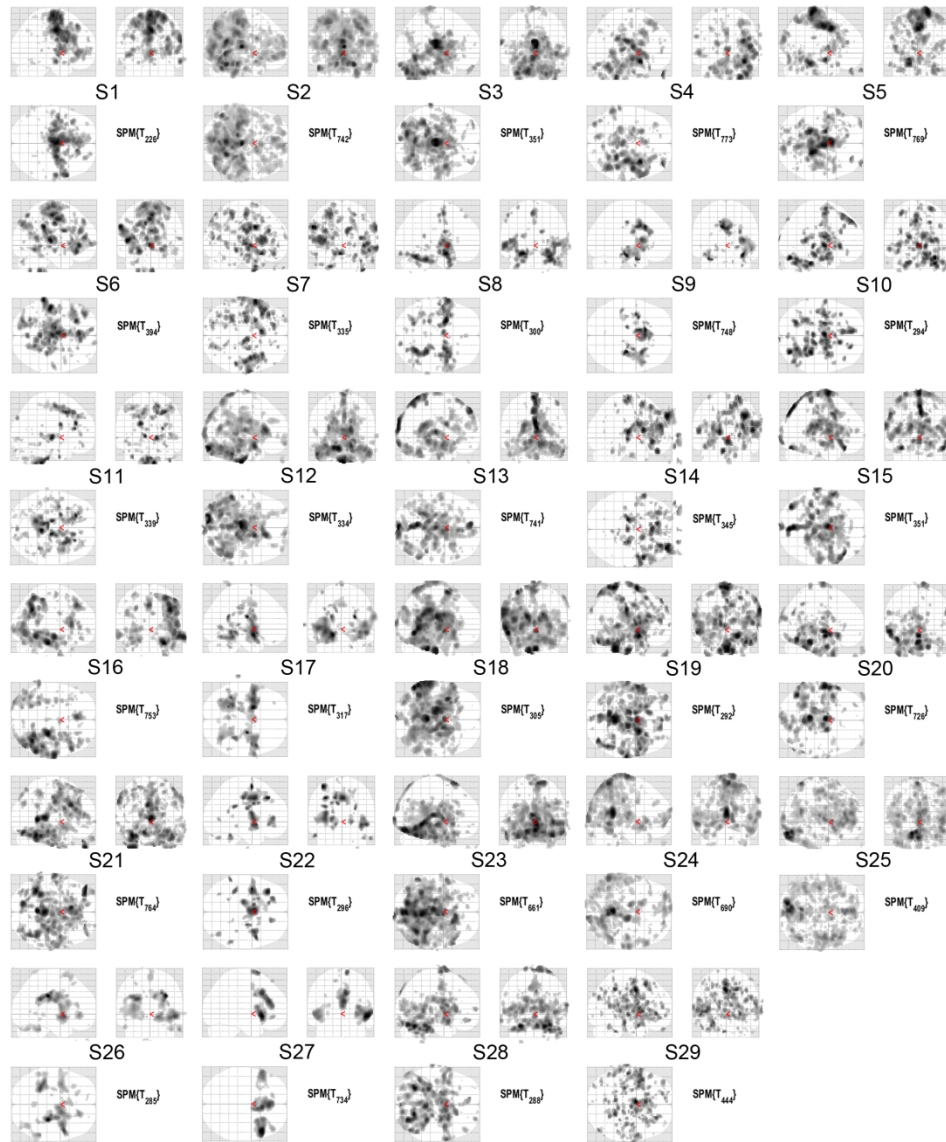
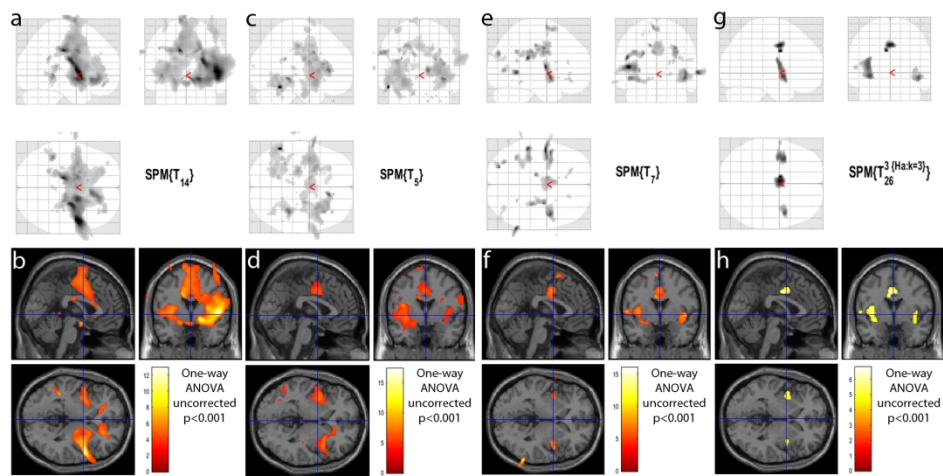


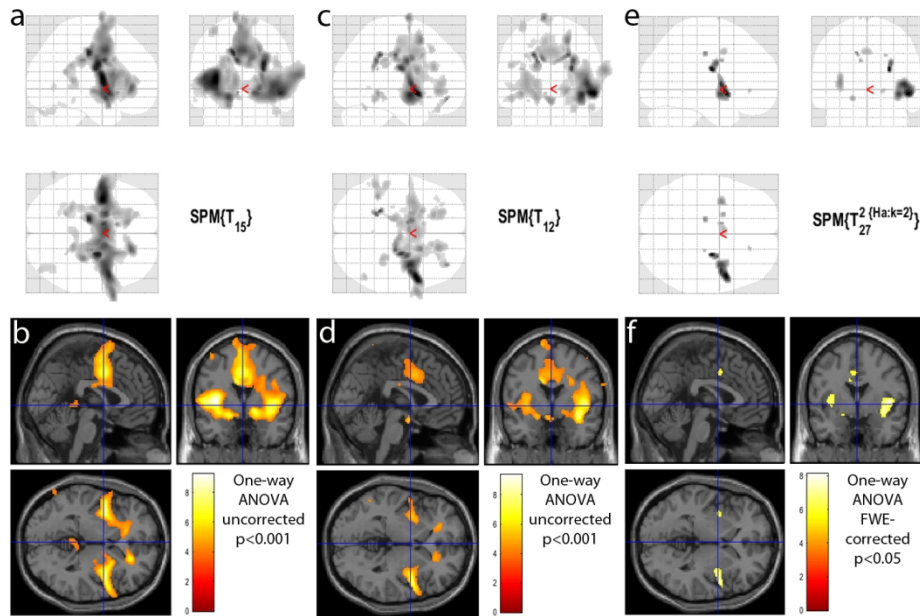
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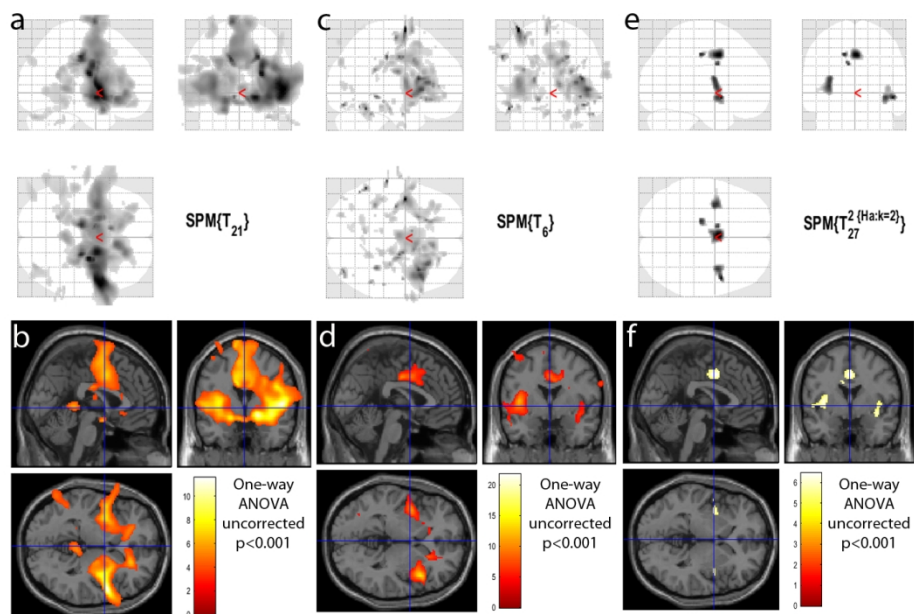
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3 **TABLES**
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5 Supplementary Table 1. Demographic, pathology/treatment and EEG-fMRI recording data of the selected participants (L: left, R: right, B:
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7 bilateral, FLE: frontal lobe epilepsy, PLE: parietal lobe epilepsy, TLE: temporal lobe epilepsy, ILE: insular lobe epilepsy, OLE: occipital
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9 lobe epilepsy, JAE: juvenile absence epilepsy, JME: juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, IGE: idiopathic generalized epilepsy, CBZ:
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11 carbamazepine, CLM: clobazam, LCM: lacosamide, LEV: levetiracetam, LTG: lamotrigine, OXC: oxcarbazepine, PB: phenobarbital, RUF:
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13 rufinamide, TPM: topiramate, VPA: valproic acid, ZNS: zonisamide, *: spontaneous sleep after partial deprivation, SWS: slow wave sleep).
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| Subjects | Age | Sex | Diagnosis | Anti-epileptic medication | Seizure frequency | Scan time (min) | Total NREM sleep time (min) | NREM Sleep stages | CAP-As |
|----------|-----|-----|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | 12 | M | PLE (B) | LEV, OXC, VPA | 2-3/day | 30 | 27 | I, II, SWS | 31 |
| 2 | 30 | M | JME | VPA | 3-4/year | 60 | 23 | I, II | 41 |
| 3 | 11 | M | OLE (L) | LEV, LTG, OXC, VPA | 5-10/day | 30 | 23* | I, II | 45 |
| 4 | 14 | F | OLE (R) | LCM, LEV, VPA | 2-3/week | 60 | 51* | I, II | 128 |
| 5 | 24 | M | TLE (R) | LEV, OXC, | 5-10/month | 60 | 48 | I, II, SWS | 107 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|---------|-----------------------|------------|----|-----|------------|-----|
| | | | | VPA | | | | | |
| 6 | 11 | M | FLE (R) | LEV, VPA | 1-3/day | 60 | 33* | I, II, SWS | 111 |
| 7 | 16 | F | TLE (R) | CBZ, TPM | 1-2/week | 30 | 27* | I, II, SWS | 45 |
| 8 | 16 | M | FLE (L) | CBZ, LEV | 3-4/year | 60 | 43* | I, II | 56 |
| 9 | 25 | F | PLE (B) | CBZ, LEV, VPA, ZNS | 15-20/day | 60 | 56* | I, II, SWS | 69 |
| 10 | 31 | M | TLE (R) | LEV, OXC | 1-2/month | 60 | 21 | I, II | 52 |
| 11 | 11 | F | OLE (L) | LEV, RUF | 3-5/month | 30 | 24* | I, II, SWS | 60 |
| 12 | 38 | F | TLE (R) | OXC, TPM | 4-10/year | 60 | 53 | I, II, SWS | 71 |
| 13 | 15 | F | FLE (R) | CLM, VPA | 10-30/day | 60 | 51* | I, II, SWS | 153 |
| 14 | 19 | F | TLE (L) | CLM, LEV, OXC | 8-20/month | 30 | 26 | I, II | 57 |
| 15 | 19 | M | PLE (R) | LEV, OXC | 1-4/day | 30 | 25* | I, II, SWS | 49 |
| 16 | 18 | F | TLE (R) | LEV, OXC, LCM | 2-4/week | 60 | 49* | I, II, SWS | 150 |
| 17 | 27 | F | FLE (L) | CLM, LCM, TPM, VPA | 1-4/week | 30 | 25 | I, II, SWS | 53 |

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|----|----|---|---------|-----------------------|-------------|----|-----|------------|-----|
| 18 | 35 | M | FLE (L) | CBZ, OXC | 2-3/week | 30 | 27* | I, II, SWS | 50 |
| 19 | 30 | M | FLE (R) | CBZ, OXC, ZNS | 1-5/week | 30 | 24* | I, II | 40 |
| 20 | 20 | M | TLE (L) | LEV, OXC | 1-4/month | 60 | 49* | I, II, SWS | 111 |
| 21 | 17 | F | FLE (L) | CBZ, LTG | 1-2/month | 60 | 54* | I, II, SWS | 218 |
| 22 | 19 | M | FLE (L) | LEV, OXC, VPA | 3-7/week | 60 | 48* | I, II, SWS | 98 |
| 23 | 13 | M | IGE | LEV, TPM, VPA | 10-30/day | 60 | 51* | I, II, SWS | 131 |
| 24 | 42 | F | TLE (R) | LEV, OXC | 1-2/week | 60 | 42* | I, II, SWS | 71 |
| 25 | 13 | F | ILE (L) | CBZ, OXC | 1-2/month | 60 | 28* | I, II | 66 |
| 26 | 27 | F | TLE (R) | LEV, OXC, LCM | 1-3/week | 60 | 25* | I, II | 56 |
| 27 | 35 | M | ILE (L) | CLB, LTG, OXC, VPA | 10-20/month | 60 | 55* | I, II, SWS | 97 |
| 28 | 27 | M | FLE (R) | VPA | 1/month | 60 | 22* | I, II | 38 |
| 29 | 45 | M | FLE (R) | OXC, PB | 1-6/month | 40 | 28* | I, II, SWS | 134 |

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|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total: 1,450 | Total: 1,058 | Total: 2,388 |
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