

ROMA

17-18 marzo 2026

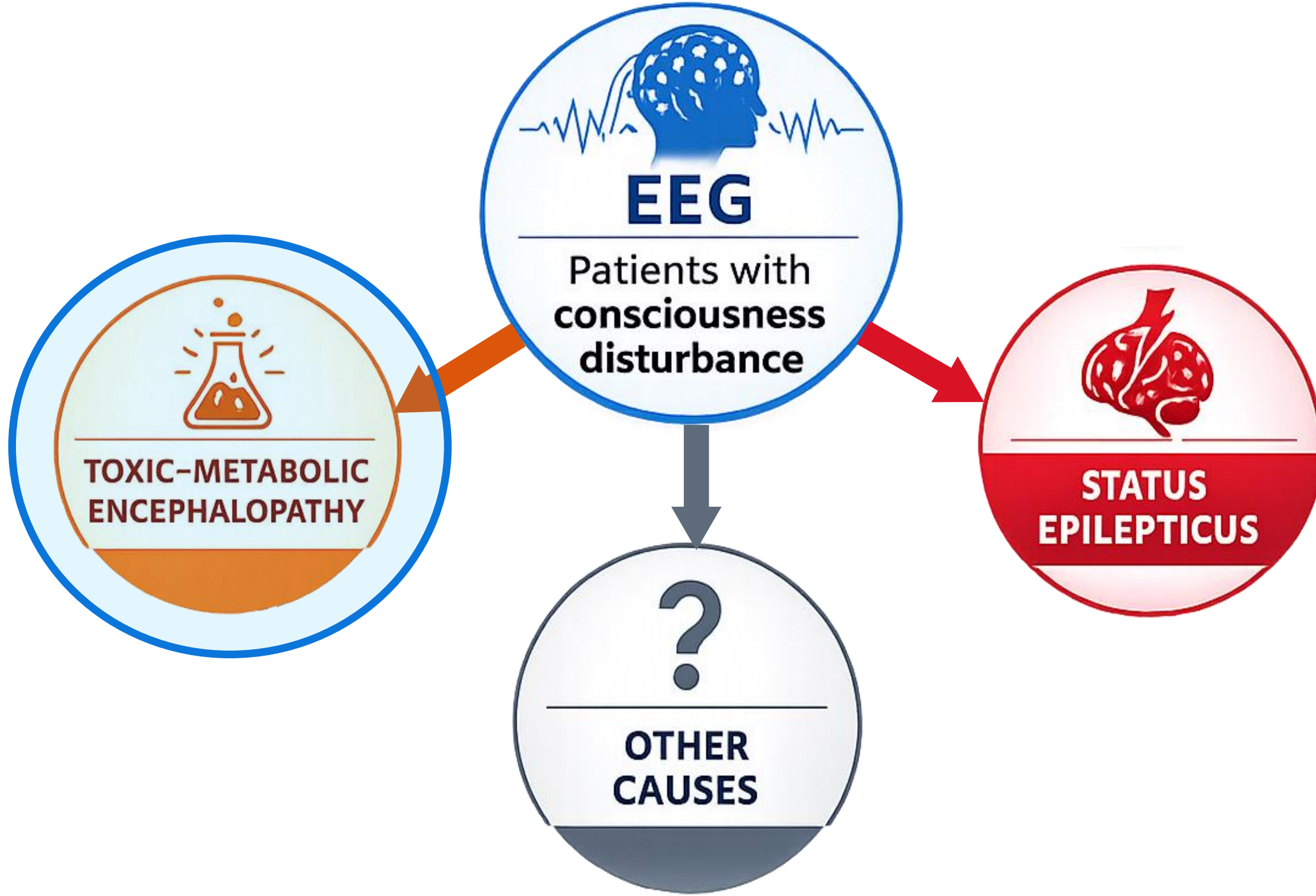
NEURO  **Young** ^{5th edition}
next generation in neurologia

**Encefalopatie, stato epilettico e
demenze atipiche: il ruolo dell'EEG**

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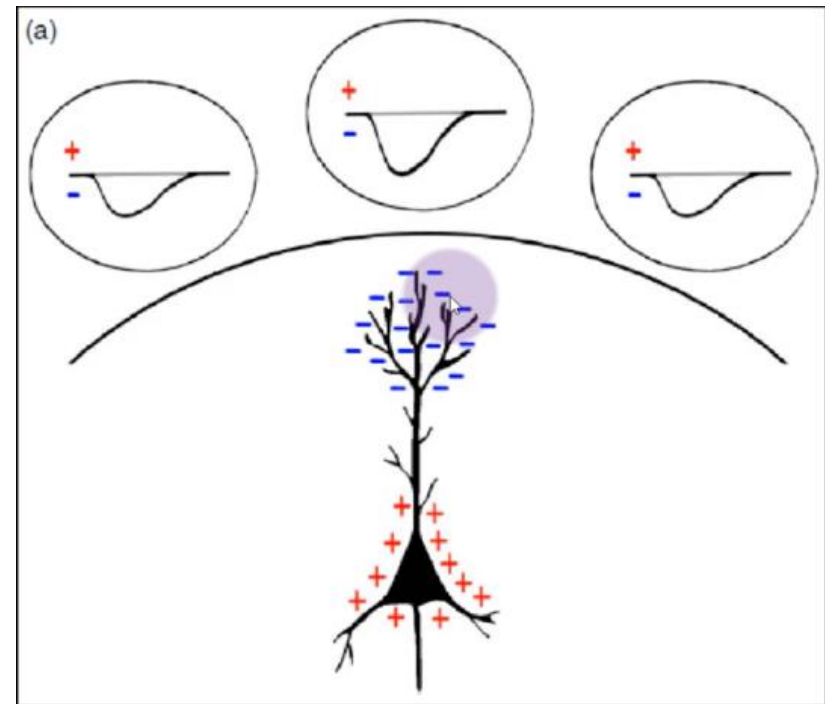
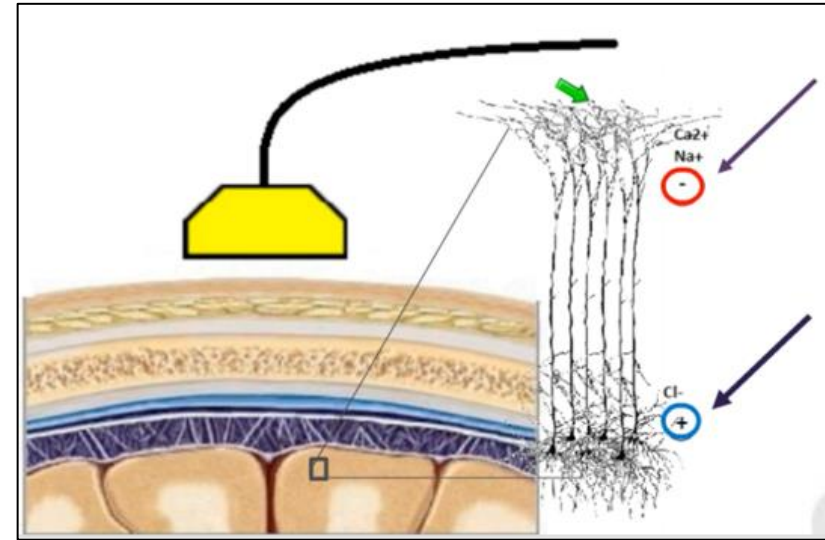
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Advantages of EEG

- High sensitivity
- Low specificity
- High temporal resolution
- (Moderate) spatial resolution
- Accessible, low-cost, non invasive



Toxic-metabolic encephalopathy

1. Slowing of the PDR
2. Slowing in wakefulness (Theta > delta)
3. Loss of the PDR, loss of normal sleep transients
4. Loss of reactivity to external stimuli
5. Burst attenuation/suppression
6. Diffuse attenuation/suppression
7. Electroencephalographic inactivity

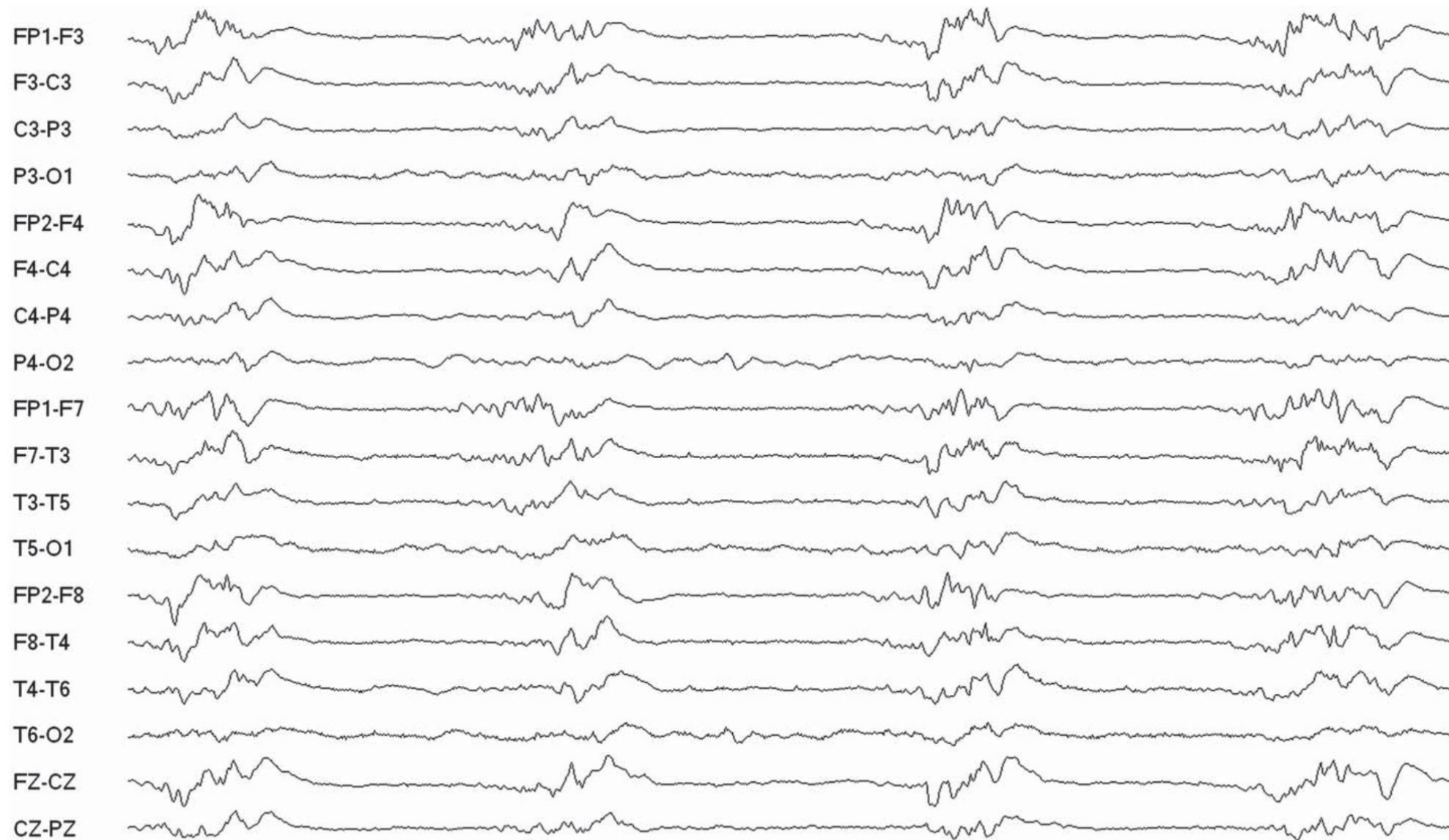


PROGRESSIVE
BRAIN
DYSFUNCTION



THETA COMA

DELTA COMA



100 μ V
1 sec

BS



Electroencephalographic patterns in coma: When things

slow down

December 2012

Lab: Neurointensive Care Study Group

 Raoul Christian Sutter · Peter W Kaplan

Coma pattern	Etiologies	EEG background reactivity*	Most frequent outcome
Beta coma			
Intermingled with alpha activity	Intoxications or withdrawal (barbiturates or benzodiazepines), severe hyperthyroidism	+ / -	favorable
Intermingled with delta activity	Brainstem lesions	-	unfavorable
Alpha coma			
More diffusely	Intoxication (barbiturates, benzodiazepines, anesthetic agents, meprobamate, imipramine)	+	favorable
Monomorphic posterior	Brainstem lesions, locked-in syndrome	+ / -	unfavorable
More diffusely	Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy	(+) / -	unfavorable
Theta coma	Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, mild to moderate metabolic encephalopathies, severe systemic infections	(+) / -	unfavorable
High-voltage delta coma			
Anterior predominance or focal, unilateral	Metabolic encephalopathies, focal or unilateral white matter lesions	+	favorable
More diffusely	Severe metabolic encephalopathy, severe encephalitis, vasculitis, large white matter lesions, markedly increased intracranial pressure	(+) / -	unfavorable

Spindle coma			
Theta and delta activity with paroxysmal bursts symmetric spindles	Traumatic brain injury, intracerebral hemorrhage, post-ictal states, intoxication	+	favorable
Theta and delta activity with paroxysmal bursts of symmetric spindles	Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, severe traumatic brain injury, large intracerebral hemorrhage	(+) / -	unfavorable
Burst-suppression			
With interruptions	Intoxication (sedative drugs), anesthetic drug use, and hypothermia	+ / (-)	favorable
No interruption	Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, severe intoxication	(+) / - (controversial for outcome)	unfavorable
Low-voltage delta coma			
Theta and delta activity with intrusions of alpha and beta activity	Traumatic brain injury, healthy individuals	+	favorable
Theta and delta activity without intrusions of higher frequency activity	Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, severe traumatic brain injury	(+) / -	unfavorable
Electro-cerebral inactivity			
No spontaneous neuronal activity detectable	Marked hypothermia, severe intoxications (nervous system depressant drugs)	-	favorable
	Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy	-	unfavorable

+ = preserved EEG background activity, - = no EEG background activity EEG = electroencephalography, * to external noxious stimulation

How to tackle EEG in encephalopathy?

1. Look for a PDR
2. What is the dominant frequency?
3. Continuous?
4. Reactive? – **CYSTE** - call, yell, sternal rub, nasal tickle, passive eye opening



SEVERITY

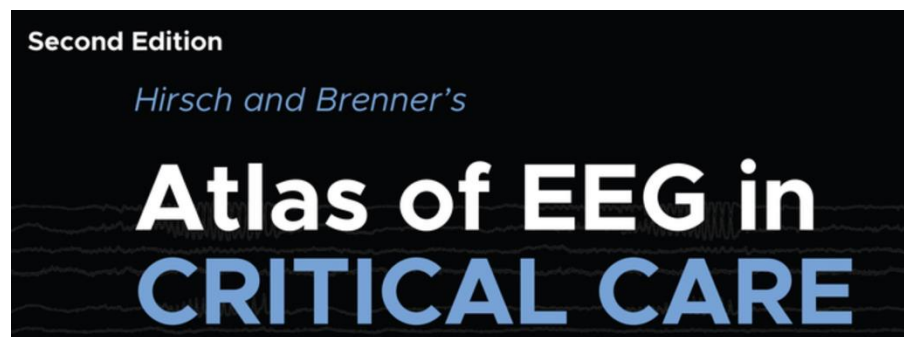
TABLE 3.3 Yale Adult Encephalopathy Scale (2021)

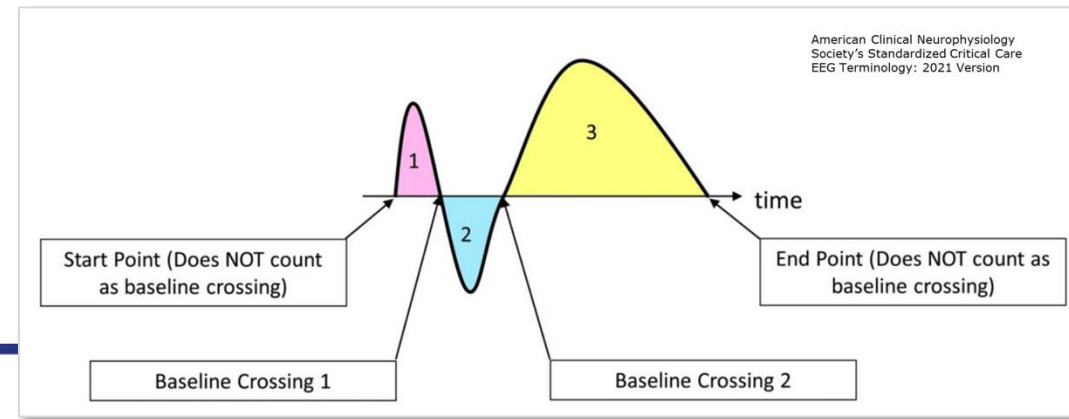
Required fields highlighted in yellow	Normal	Mild	Mild - Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Severe	Severe	Complete Suppression of Cerebral Rhythms ^c
Predominant frequency, most awake state	Alpha or LVF ^a with minimal theta, no delta	≥7 Hz or LVF ^a with prominent theta or any delta (whether rhythmic or not)	For patients who do not meet all criteria for either Mild or Moderate but fall somewhere in between	3–6 Hz	For patients who do not meet all criteria for either Moderate or Severe but fall somewhere in between, OR with LVF in a non-interactive patient ^a	Any	NA
Posterior dominant rhythm (PDR)	≥8.5 or LVF ^a	Present (any freq) or LVF ^a background		Absent		Absent	NA
Continuity, most awake state	Continuous	Continuous		Continuous or nearly continuous		NR	NA
Reactivity	NR ^b	NR ^b		Reactive or SIRPIDs-only		Unreactive or SIRPIDs-only	NA
State changes	NR ^b	NR ^b		Present		Absent	NA

^a LVF = low voltage beta (or faster) activity diffusely: In awake patients with meaningful interaction, LVF can be part of a normal background, mild dysfunction or mild-moderate dysfunction based on other features. In patients without meaningful interaction, LVF should be classified as moderate to severe if EEG is reactive, and severe if unreactive and without state changes.

^b NR: Not required. These features are not part of the definition of that level of dysfunction, but all records will be reactive and have state changes if a long enough recording is obtained.

^c Complete suppression: No discernible cerebral rhythms whether or not standards for determination of electrocerebral silence are met. NA: Not Applicable





Triphasic waves

- 1950 – “hepatic encephalopathy”
- Not different from GPDs? Variant?
- Can cause secondary brain injury?
- A form of NCSE?

Comparison of typical and atypical features of triphasic waves.

	Typical triphasic waves	Atypical triphasic waves
<u>Symmetry</u>	Symmetrical or shifting asymmetry; may be asymmetrical depending on underlying structural abnormalities#	Consistently lateralized or asymmetrical, or focal/multifocal negativity; maybe asymmetrical depending on underlying structural abnormalities as well as potential epileptogenicity#
<u>Phases and Location</u>	Triphasic or biphasic with prominent frontal/frontocentral positivity	Triphasic or biphasic but prominent negativity as opposed to positivity
<u>Frequency</u>	≤ 2 Hertz frequency	> 2 Hertz frequency
<u>State/Stimulus Dependence</u>	Stimulus or state dependent, often resolve completely or becoming less frequent in sleep or drowsiness; may also be seen more frequently in sleep or drowsiness and less frequently in wakefulness	Continuous, without state or stimulus dependence
<u>Presence of Absence of Lag Contour</u>	Anterior-posterior or posterior-anterior lag	No lag
<u>Benzodiazepine responsiveness</u>	Blunted May resolve with benzodiazepine; would not typically demonstrate clinical responsiveness to benzodiazepine	Spiky/sharp contour May resolve with benzodiazepine; may or may not demonstrate clinical responsiveness to benzodiazepine
<u>Background</u>	Background activity is present though slow	Slow or attenuated background
<u>Dynamic or Monotonous</u>	When present the waveforms have a similar appearance and are somewhat monotonous	When present the waveforms have dynamic appearance

Review article

Triphasic waves: To treat or not to treat?

Brin E. Freund ^{a,*}, Khalil S. Husari ^b, José L. Fernández-Torre ^{c,d,e}, Philippe Gélisse ^f, Peter W. Kaplan ^b

Etiologies of Triphasic Waves.

Clinical

Hepatic failure/Hyperammonemia

Renal dysfunction

Hypothermia

Systemic or CNS infections

Intracranial hypertension

Angelman syndrome

Rett syndrome

Hashimoto encephalopathy/Thyroid disorders

Medications (levodopa, metrizamide, pentobarbital, naproxen, gadolinium, levetiracetam, baclofen, cefepime, ifosfamide, lithium, cefoperazone, pregabalin, ceftriaxone, aztreonam)

Alzheimer disease/Dementia

Hypoparathyroidism and other endocrinologic disorders

Radiographic

White matter lesions

*Brainstem or diencephalic lesions

*Acute ischemic stroke (cortical and subcortical)

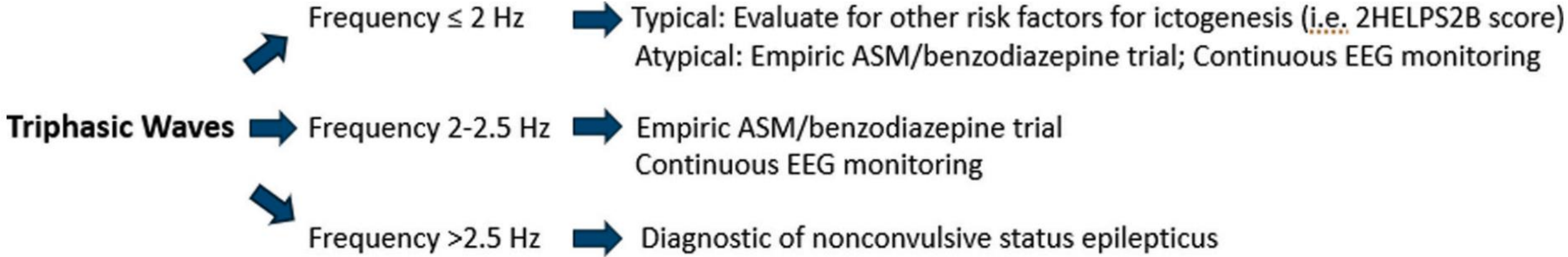
*Acute intracranial hemorrhage (including all types)

*Hydrocephalus

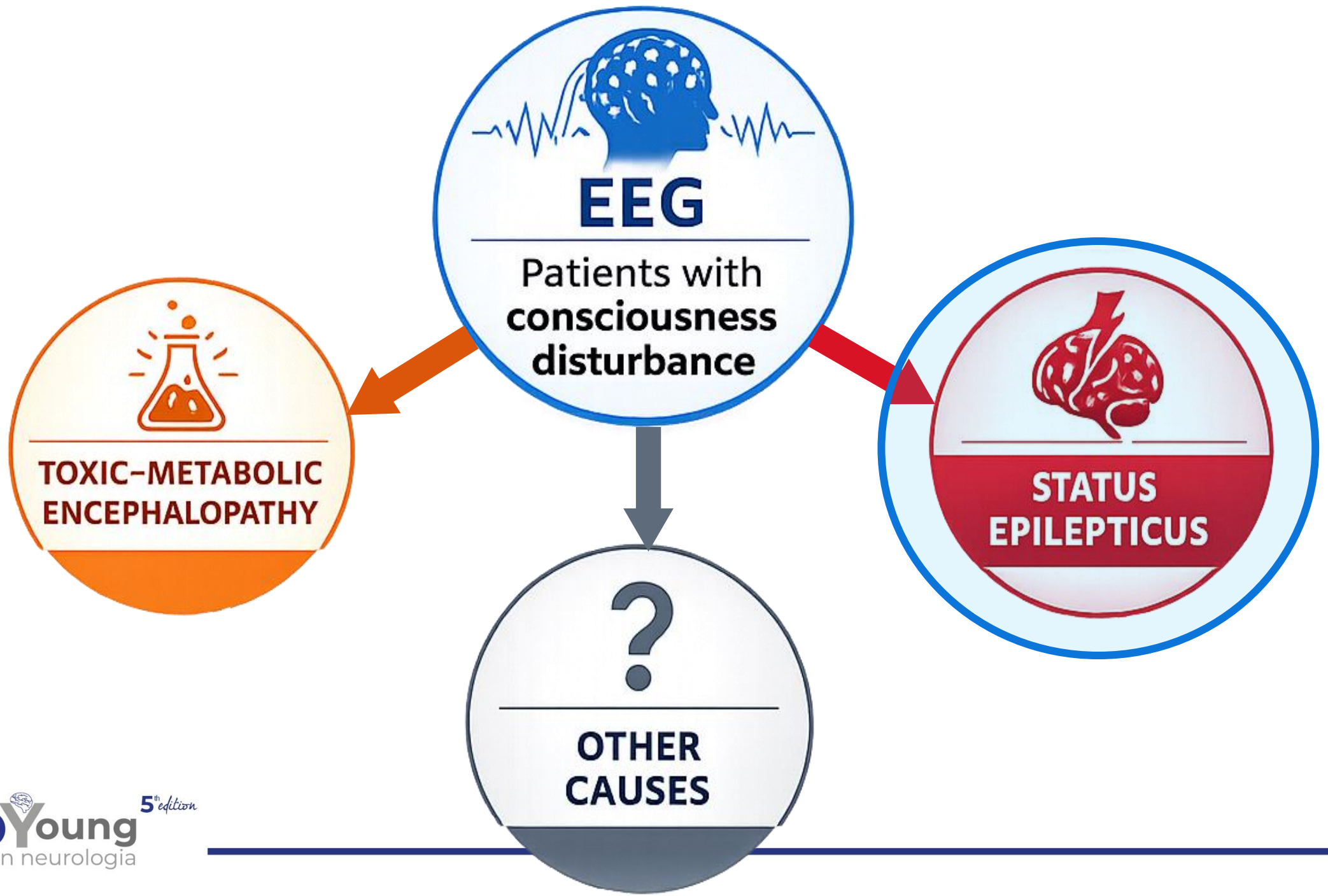
*Traumatic Brain Injury

*Hypertensive emergency/posterior reversible leukoencephalopathy

*Confounded by presence of cerebral atrophy and/or white matter lesions.



* In the absence of any subtle clinical manifestation of nonconvulsive status epilepticus/seizures



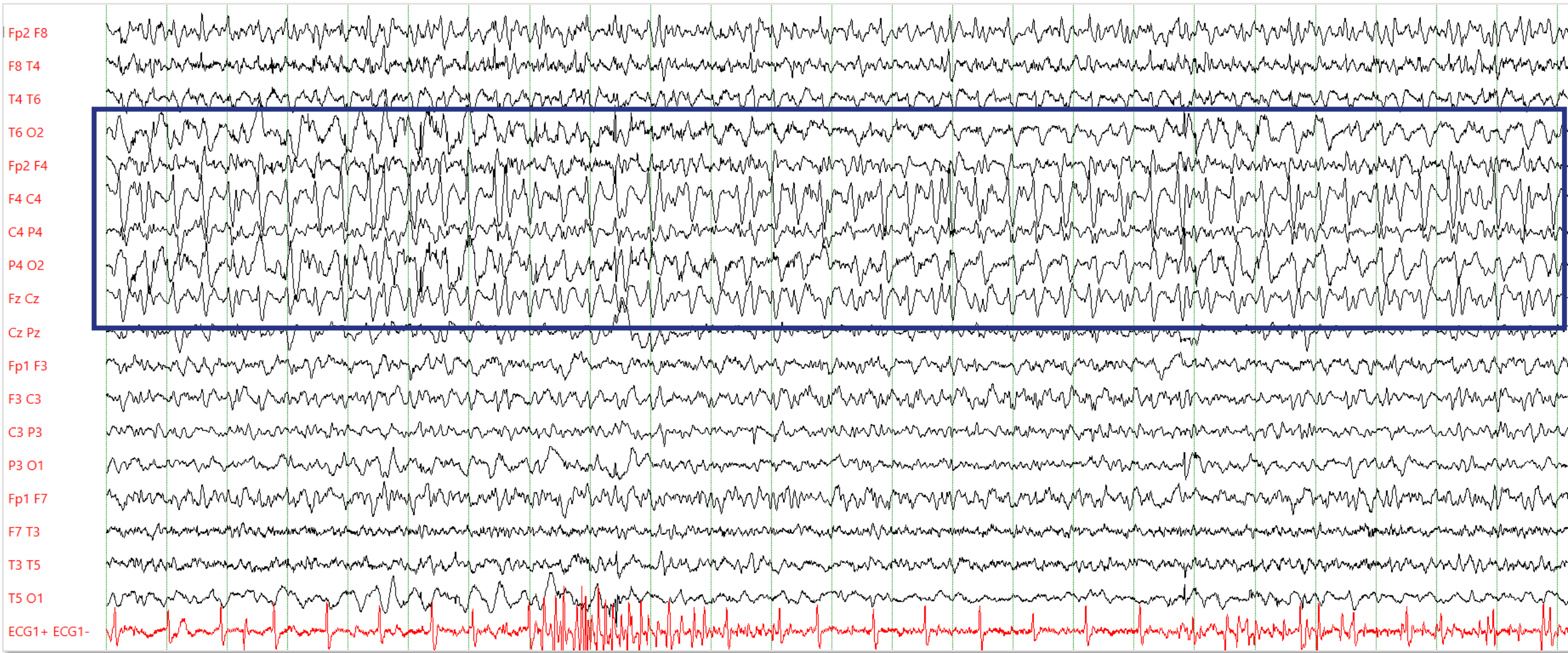
Status epilepticus

- High sensitivity
- High specificity
- High temporal resolution
- High spatial resolution

*EEG IS THE GOLD
STANDARD FOR SE
DIAGNOSIS*

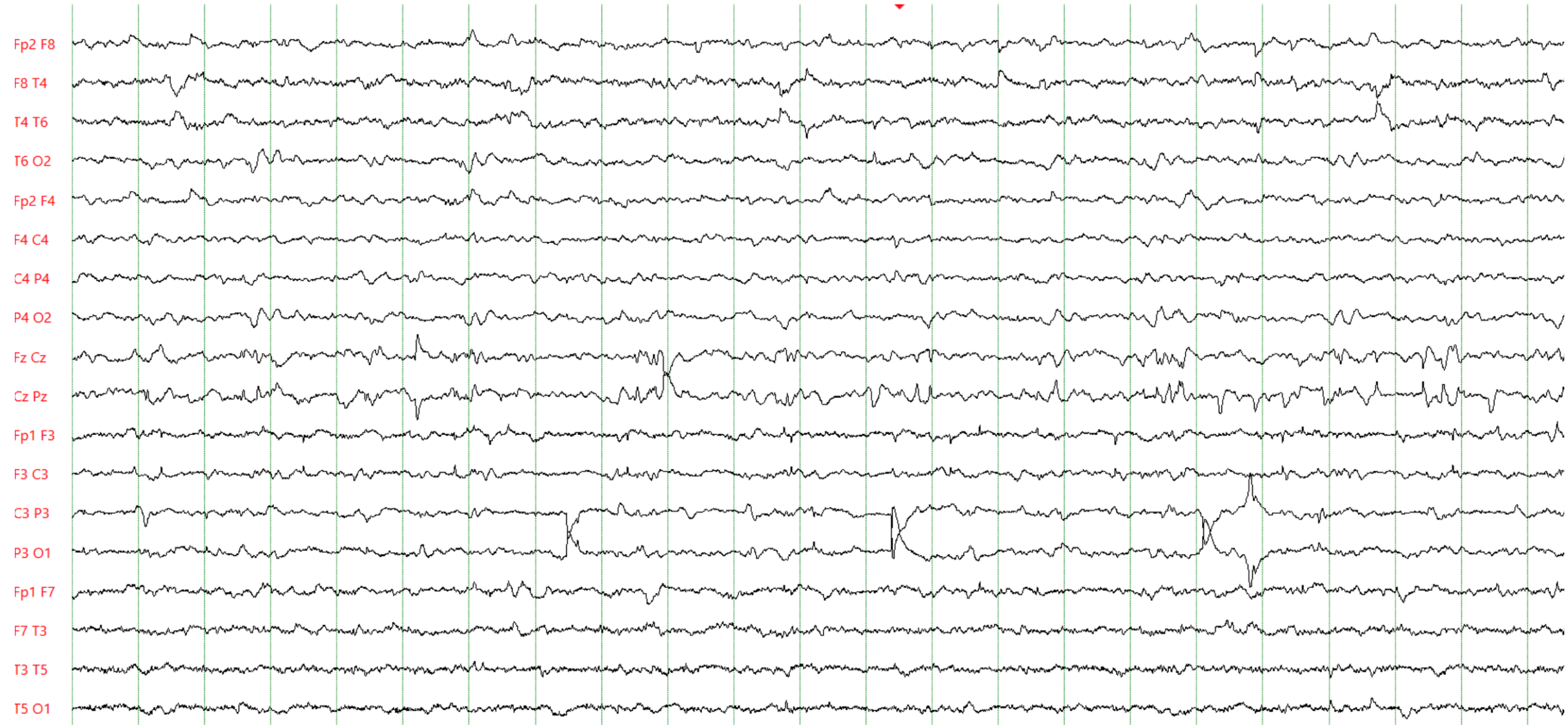
When to suspect it?

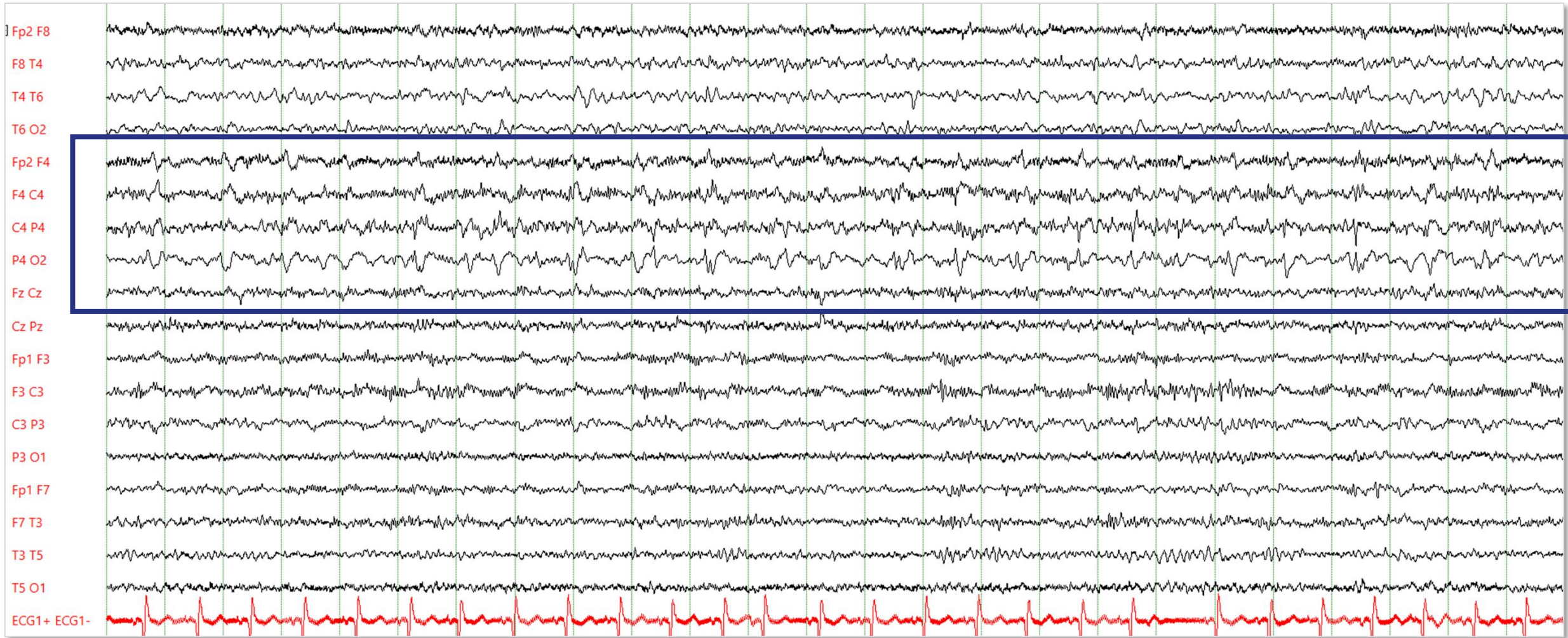
- Convulsive SE → motor signs
- NCSE
 - Consciousness alteration (quantitative or qualitative)
 - After/in between a clear seizure, no return to baseline status
 - Subtle motor signs – twitching, nystagmus/ocular deviation, hippus, piloerection
 - A history of epilepsy, recent withdrawal of antiseizure medications, *acute brain injury, or metabolic disturbances*



> 2.5 Hz

DEFINITE SE



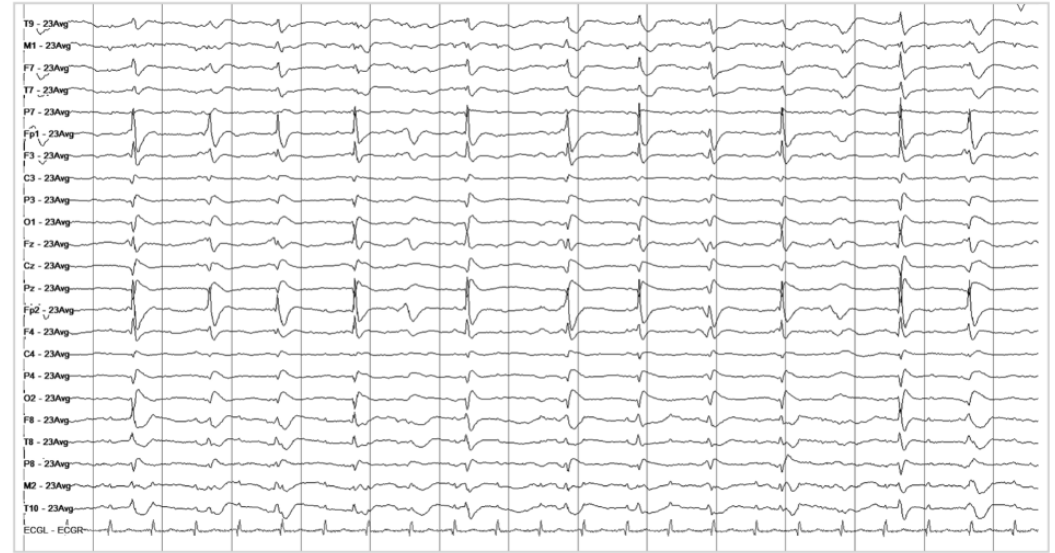


IIC – POSSIBLE NCSE

Lateralized Periodic Discharges (LPDs)



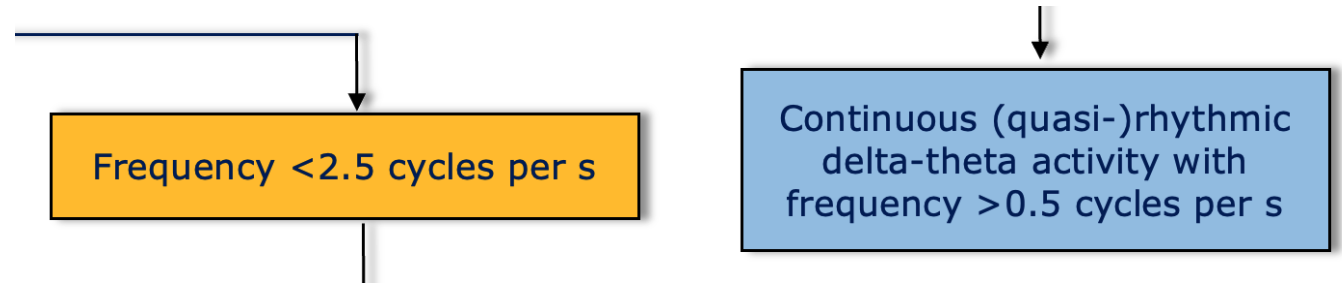
Generalized Periodic Discharges (GPDs)



Lateralized Rhythmic Delta Activity (LRDA)

Generalized Rhythmic Delta Activity (GRDA)

What is IIC?

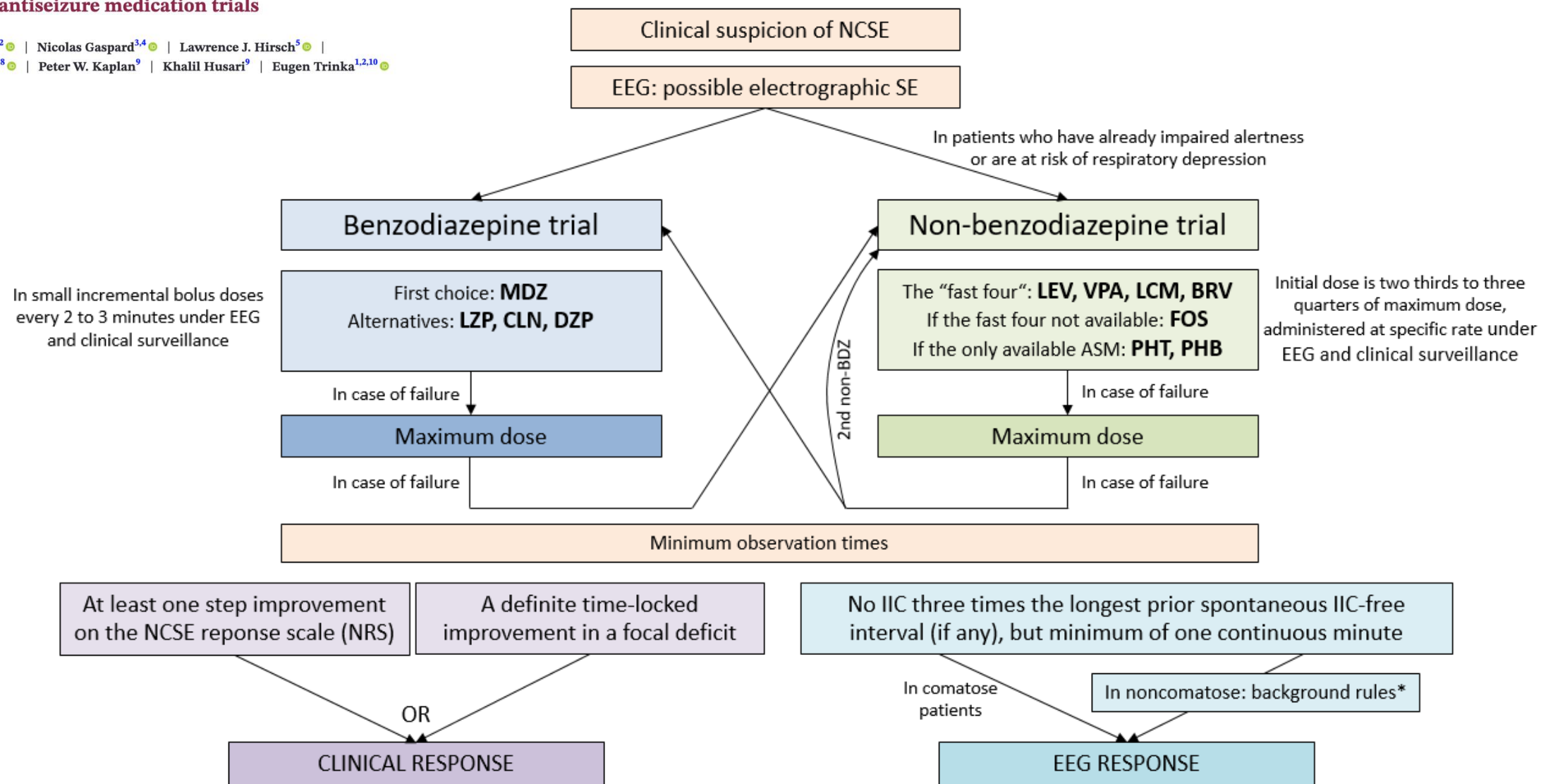


- Purely electrographic phenomenon
- Borderland or a “boundary syndrome” of SE, with no clear distinction between ictal and interictal EEG activity
- Deciding if ictal or interictal is, however, **critical**

Diagnosing nonconvulsive status epilepticus: Defining electroencephalographic and clinical response to diagnostic intravenous antiseizure medication trials

Markus Leitinger^{1,2} | Nicolas Gaspard^{3,4} | Lawrence J. Hirsch⁵ | Sándor Beniczky^{6,7,8} | Peter W. Kaplan⁹ | Khalil Husari⁹ | Eugen Trinka^{1,2,10}

RESPONSE TO DIAGNOSTIC IV ASM TRIAL



*Background rules: If baseline EEG background frequency is known: return to baseline OR appearance of previously absent normal features. In patients with no acute neurological or systemic condition that can affect the background activity: normal background OR appearance of previously absent normal features. In all other cases: the criterion cannot be applied

BDZ

	Midazolam	Lorazepam	Clonazepam	Diazepam
Starting dose	1 mg	0.5 mg	0.25 mg	4 mg
if there is no EEG-response give <u>incremental doses (same as starting doses) every 2-3 minutes of</u> (under EEG- and clinical monitoring)				
up to a maximum dose of (whichever is <u>lower</u>)				
Maximum dose, weight based	0.2 mg/ kg	0.1 mg/ kg	0.05 mg/ kg	0.25 mg/kg
Maximum dose, absolute	5 mg	2.5mg	1.25 mg	20 mg

Non-BDZ

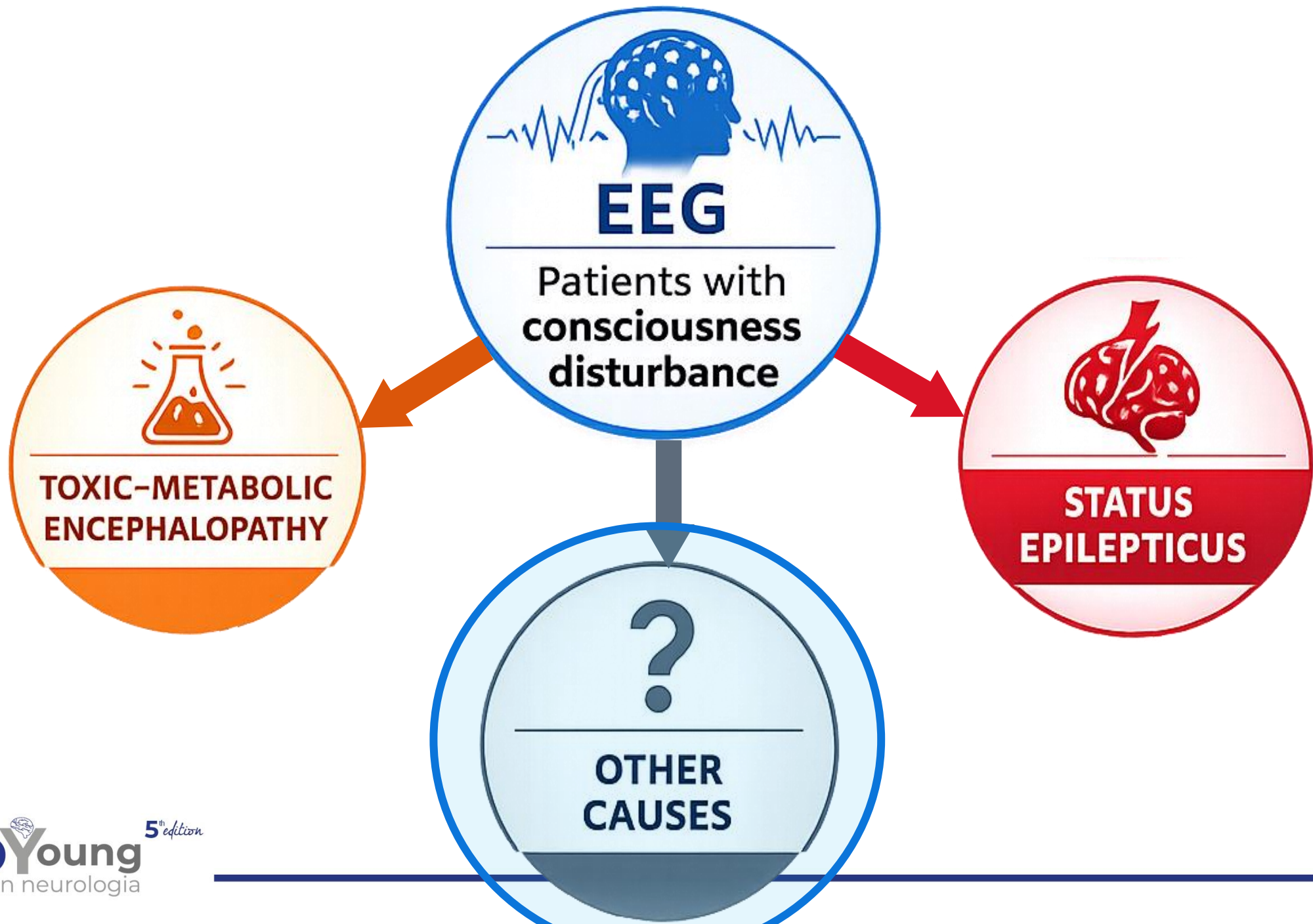
	Levetiracetam	Valproate	Lacosamide	Brivaracetam	Fosphenytoin*	Phenobarbital**
Choice	1	1	1	1	2	3
Starting dose	40 mg/kg	30 mg/kg	6 mg/ kg	4 mg/kg	15 mg PE/ kg	10 mg/kg
Administration time	5 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes	5 minutes	10-15 minutes (max 150 mg/min)	15+ minutes
With additional boluses up to a maximum dose of (whichever is <u>lower</u>)						
Maximum total loading dose, weight based	60 mg/kg	40 mg/kg	8 mg/ kg	6 mg/ kg	20 mg PE/ kg	20 mg/kg
Maximum total loading dose, absolute	4500 mg	3000 mg	600 mg	450 mg	1500 mg PE	1500
Special measures			ECG monitoring		ECG monitoring	

*phenytoin: where fosphenytoin is not available, at a maximum rate of 50 mg/min;

**in countries where only phenobarbital is available

PE phenytoin sodium equivalent;

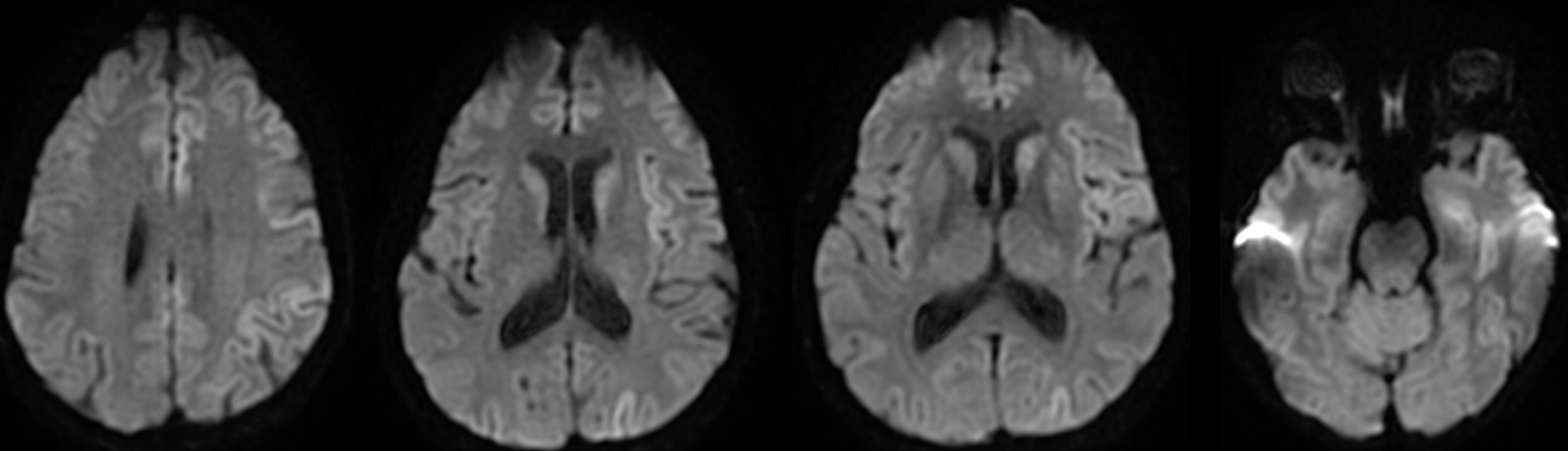
LEVEL 10: normal
LEVEL 9: speaks or writes words with <u>clear sense, oriented to person, year and city or region, but behaviour or performance different than normal</u>
LEVEL 8: speaks or writes words with <u>clear sense, but disoriented</u> to person, year and city or region
LEVEL 7: speaks or writes words or syllables , incomprehensible or <u>confused</u>
LEVEL 6: Follows commands (verbally or by demonstration) (e.g. open/close eyes, raise arms, say "1,2,3")
LEVEL 5: directed gaze to examiner (or responsive vertical eye movement in locked-in syndrome), does not follow any commands (neither verbal nor by demonstration.)
LEVEL 4: opens eyes spontaneously or to <u>verbal stimulus</u> or to <u>light touch</u> , (no directed gaze), does not follow any commands
LEVEL 3: opens eyes to (strong) tactile stimulus (R or L shoulder, nose), does not follow commands (verbal NOR by demonstration)
LEVEL 2: localizes to/ wards off painful stimuli
LEVEL 1: no purposeful response to painful stimuli



Case #1

- E.H., 57 yo, female
- Past medical hx: nihil
- Presenting complaint: subjective cognitive impairment (phone!) three months prior > progressive
- Physical examination: upper limb dystonia, dysarthria, aphasia nominum





CJD – E200K



Periodic Sharp Wave Complexes (PSWC)

DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA OF PSWC TYPICAL FOR sCJD

- Biphasic or triphasic
- Periodic, the majority with a duration of 100-600 ms and an intercomplex interval of 500-2000 ms
- Generalized and lateralized complexes accepted
- Frontal-precentral



Another pt with prion disease

Case #2

- A.B., 25 yo, female
- Past medical hx: anxiety, CMT type 1
- Presenting complaint: episodes of difficulty in “moving the tongue” + worsening of anxiety, slowness

Home Montaggio Navigazione Eventi Analisi Finestra Aiuto

3 - Longitudinale + ECG
 Fp1-Fp2 As recorded
 Gain 100 µV/cm
 Tempo di base 25 sec
 Speed 4 pa
 Parametri montaggio

Filtro PA 1,6 Hz
 Filtro PB 30,0 Hz
 Notch

Home Montaggio Navigazione Eventi Analisi Finestra Aiuto

3 - Longitudinale + ECG
 Fp1-Fp2 As recorded
 Gain 100 µV/cm
 Tempo di base 25 sec
 Speed 4 pa
 Parametri montaggio

Filtro PA 1,6 Hz
 Filtro PB 30,0 Hz
 Notch

G2

Impostazioni AVG Referenza

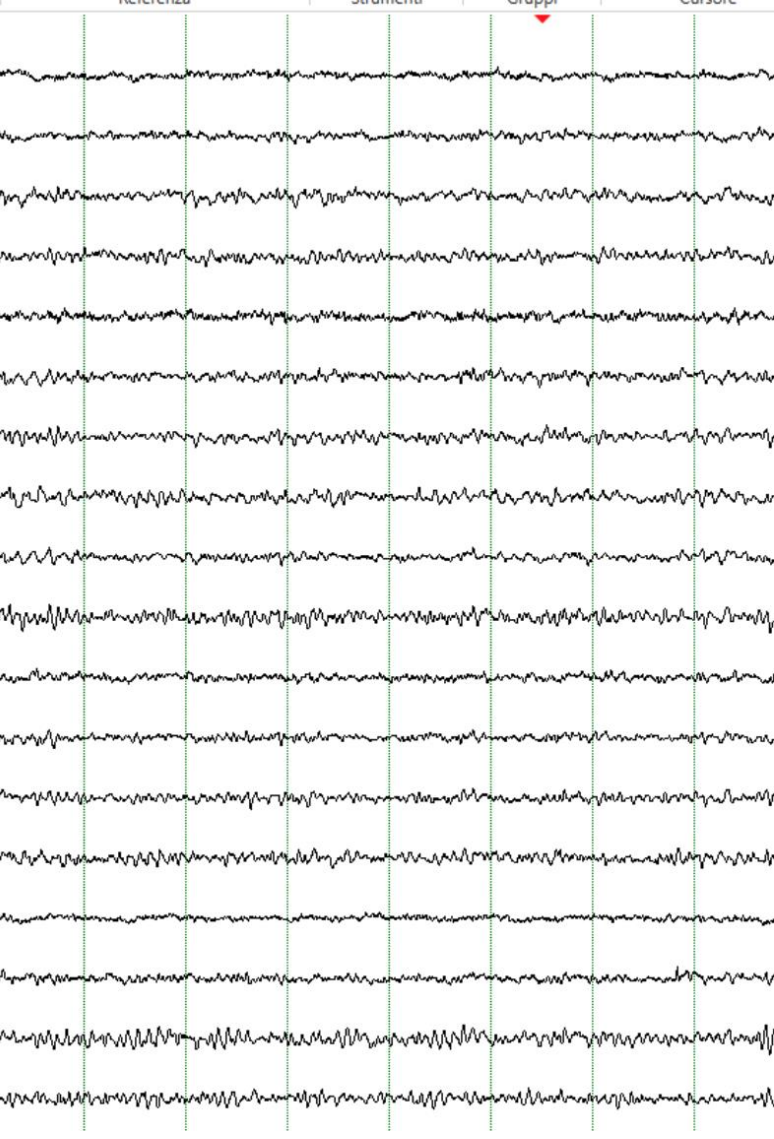
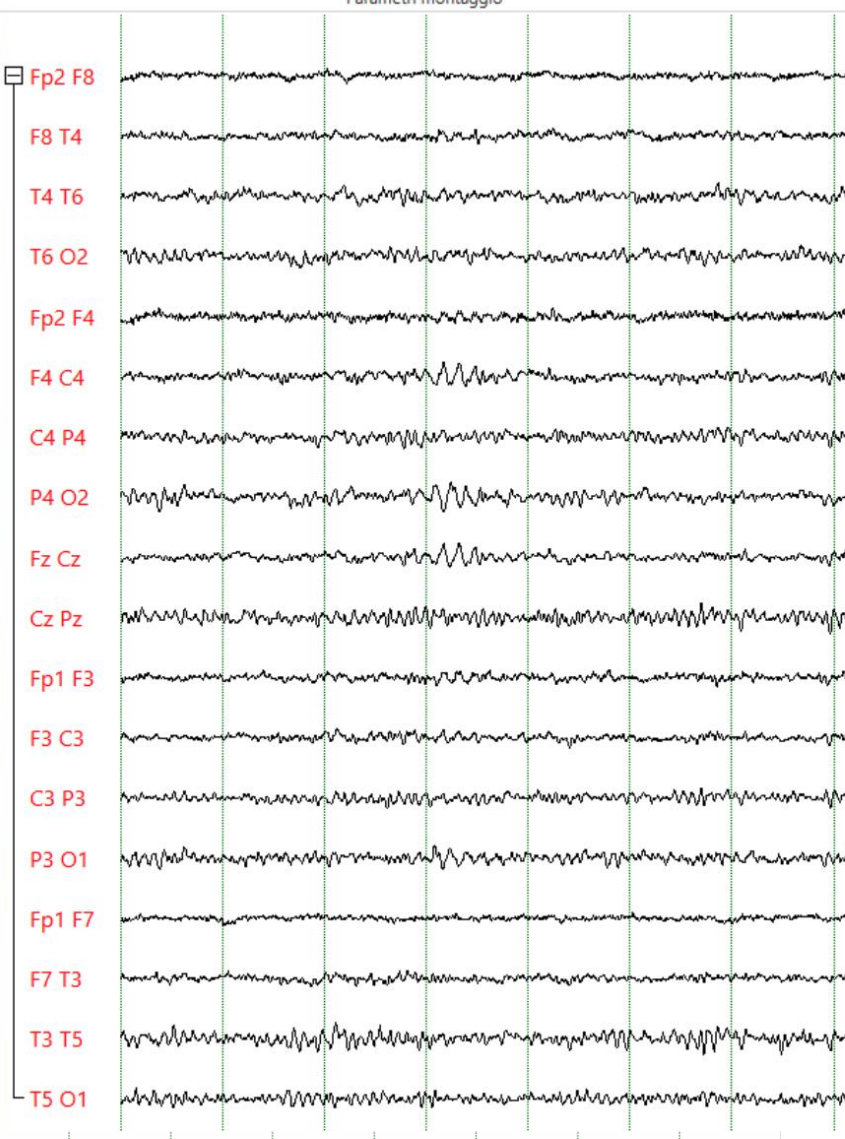
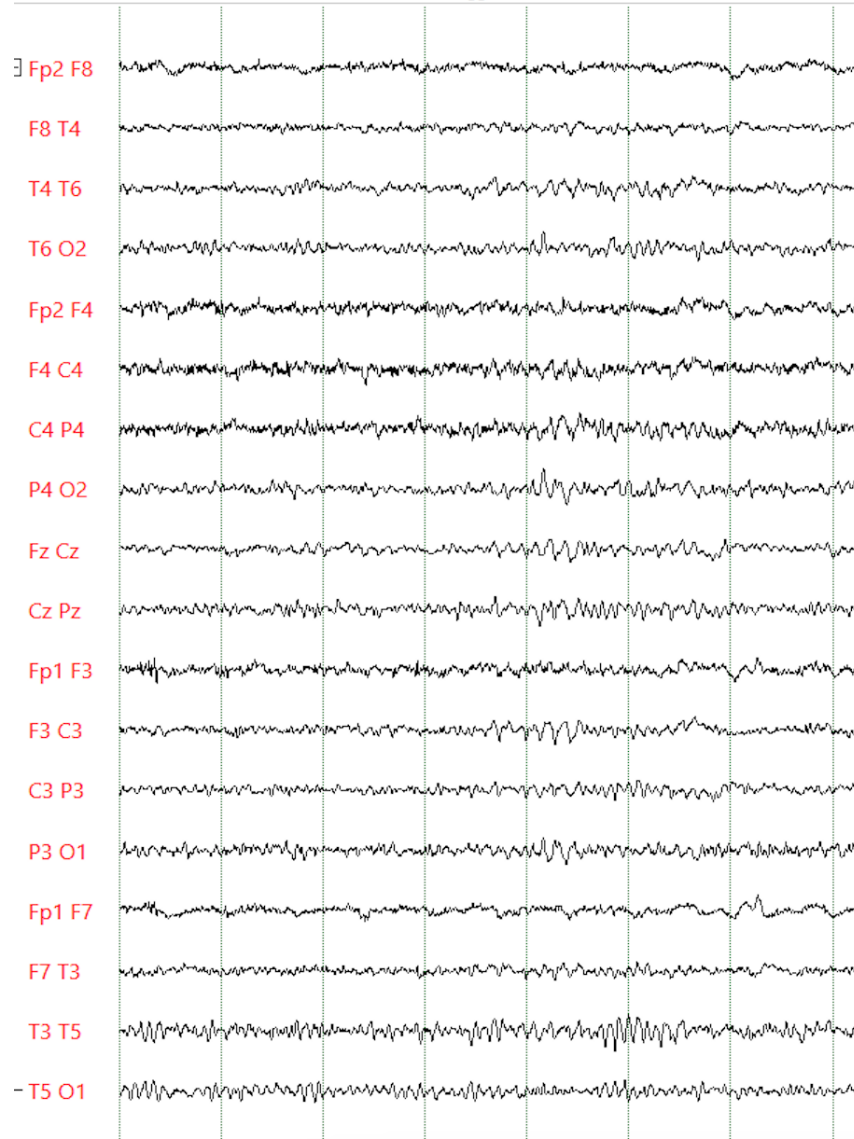
Impostazioni SRC

Mostra Impedenze Strumenti

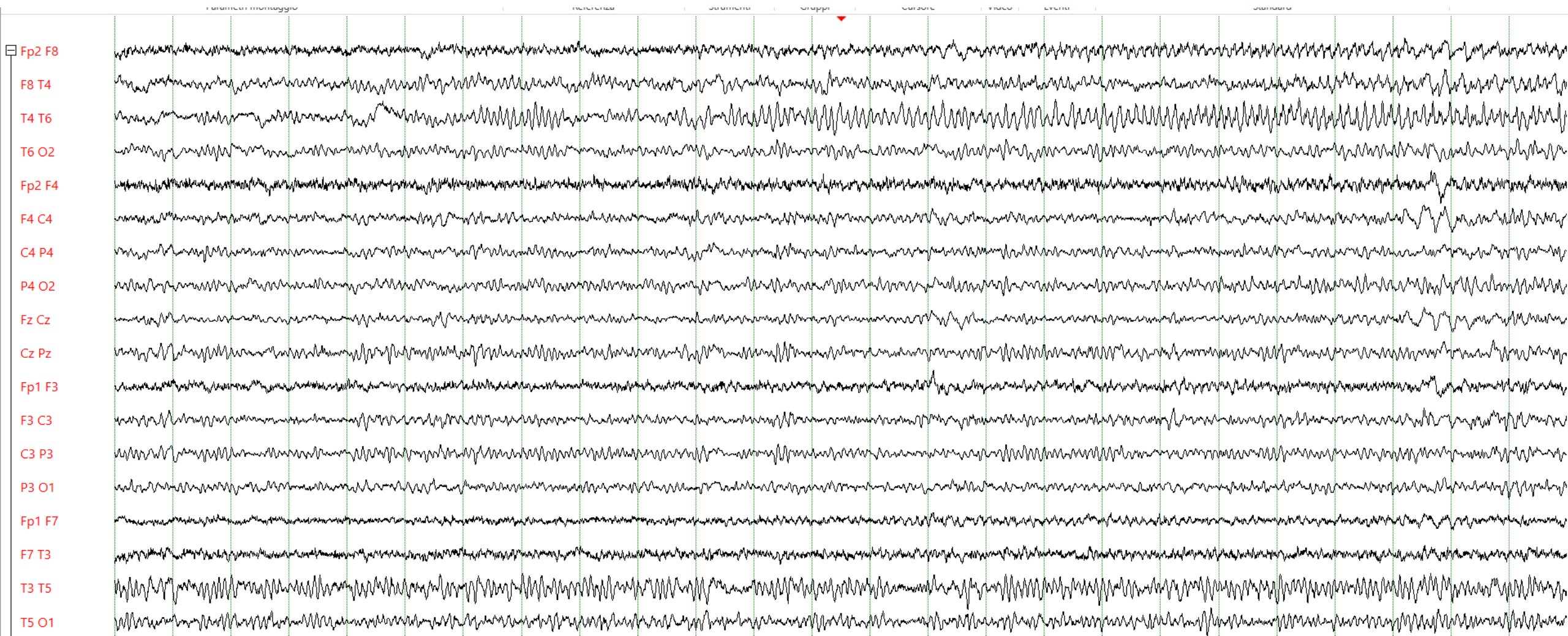
Zoom

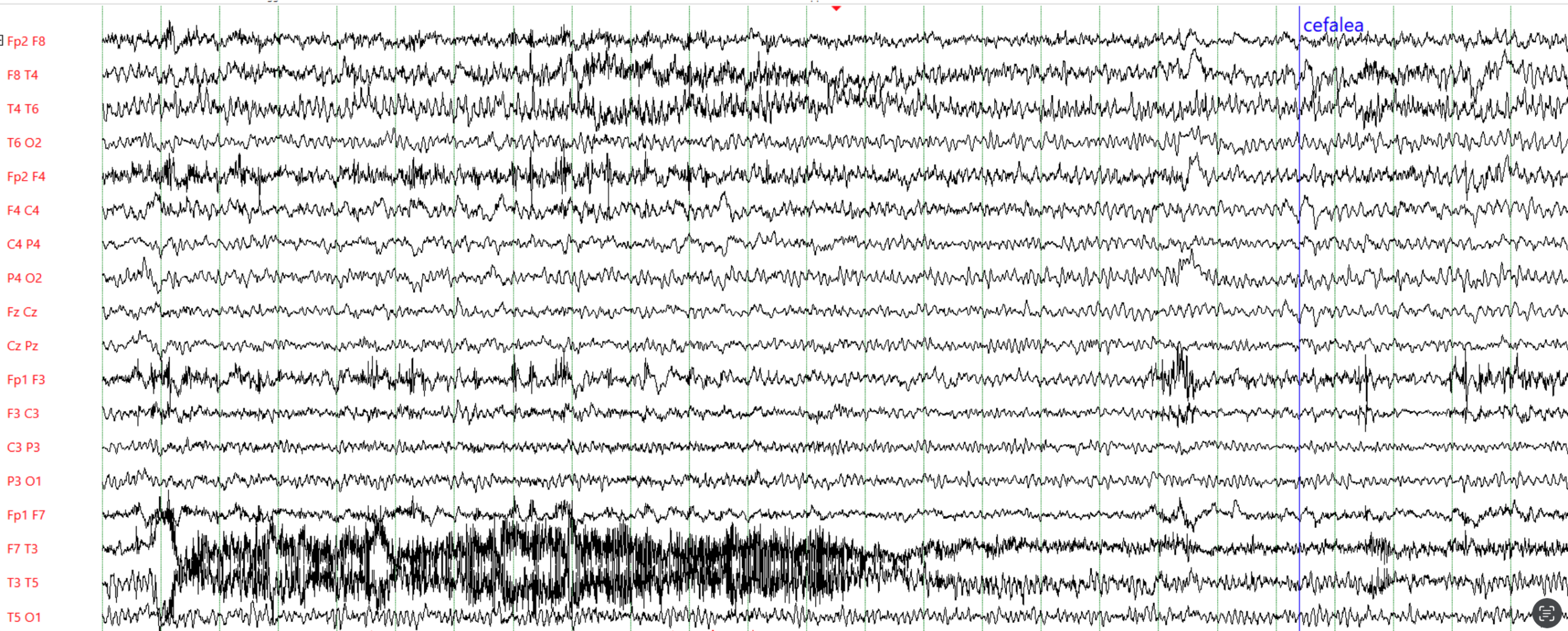
Collapsa tutti Espandi tutti Gruppi

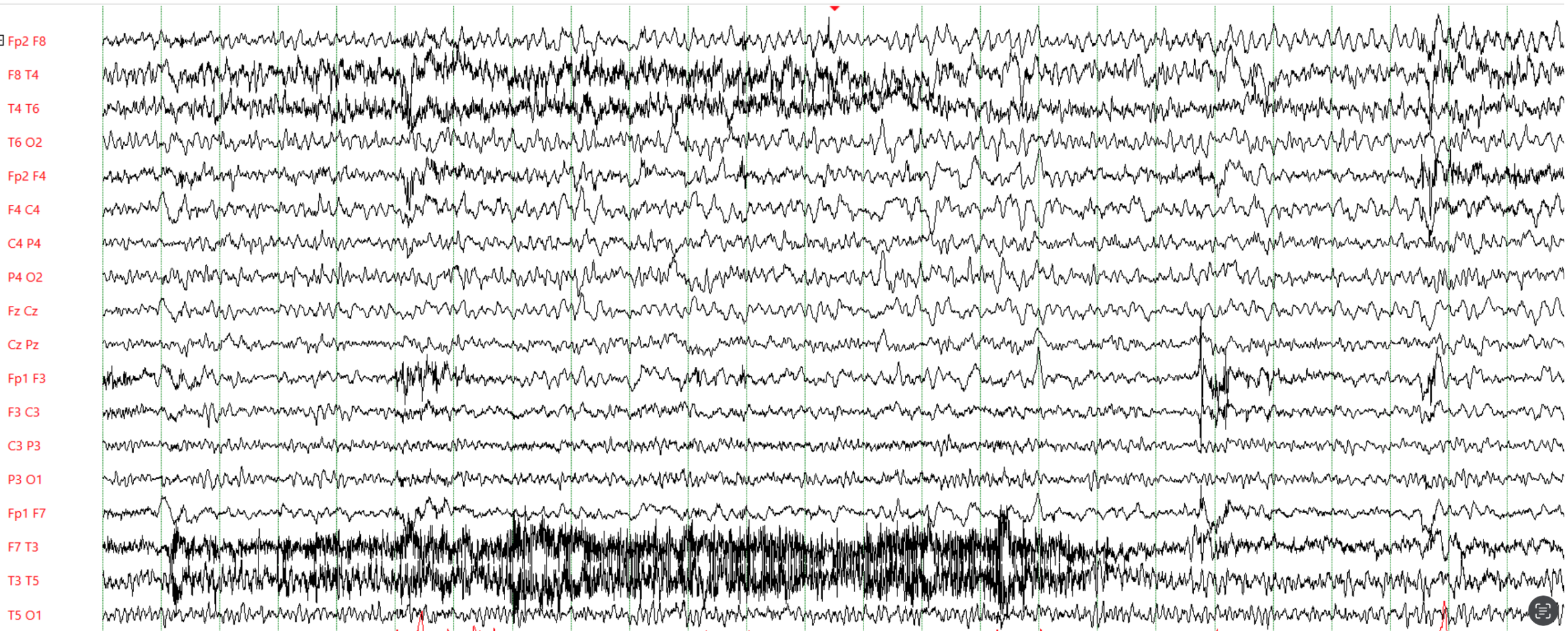
Ruler Standard Avanzato Corsore



Il primo avvenuto sabato sera (18 novembre): sono uscita per negozi, (sottolineo che ultimamente non avviene spesso che esca di casa e che a ripensarci ora mi è difficile realizzare che siano passati solo pochi giorni, mi sembra un'eternità, così come mi sembra molto lontano il giorno in cui ci siamo visti) mi sono subito resa conto che era disturbante la musica che c'era e le corsie dei supermercati ma ho cercato di rimanere più calma possibile ricordando che posso pian piano tornare alla normalità. Uscendo dall'edificio ho avuto un déjà-vu... Salita in macchina la testa si è affollata di pensieri ed ho provato una sensazione particolare che si è ripetuta poi negli episodi successivi che proverò in qualche modo a descriverle e che si sono inoltre ripetuti in tutta la giornata di sabato. Dopo pochi secondi dalla salita in macchina ho avuto come una sensazione di svenimento, sentendo le gambe e le mani come addormentate accompagnata da nausea. Il tutto avrà avuto la durata di 3-4 minuti, successivamente sono andata a prendere una mia amica che non vedevo da circa 3 settimane ed ho come avuto la difficoltà nel riconoscerle il viso.... dopo qualche giorno... ho avvertito anche lì lo stesso disagio della sera prima nel supermercato, cercando sempre di razionalizzarlo e tranquillizzarmi, ma dopo avvertita la stessa sensazione descritta sopra ho avuto lo stesso sentore di svenimento e disorientamento, della stessa durata e a seguire puntuale il mal di testa, molto più forte, alle tempie e agli occhi, tanto da non riuscire a tenerli aperti e a costringerci a rientrare a casa, ho provato sollievo 2-3 ore dopo.... Un ulteriore episodio si è presentato ieri pomeriggio, sapevo che stava per succedere perché avevo riconosciuto il disorientamento, come di déjà-vu, ma diverso e più complesso da spiegare, a seguire sempre lo stesso mal di testa, ero a casa con un amico che non vedevo da anni e anche lì ho avuto difficoltà a focalizzarne il volto e seguire i discorsi che facevamo....

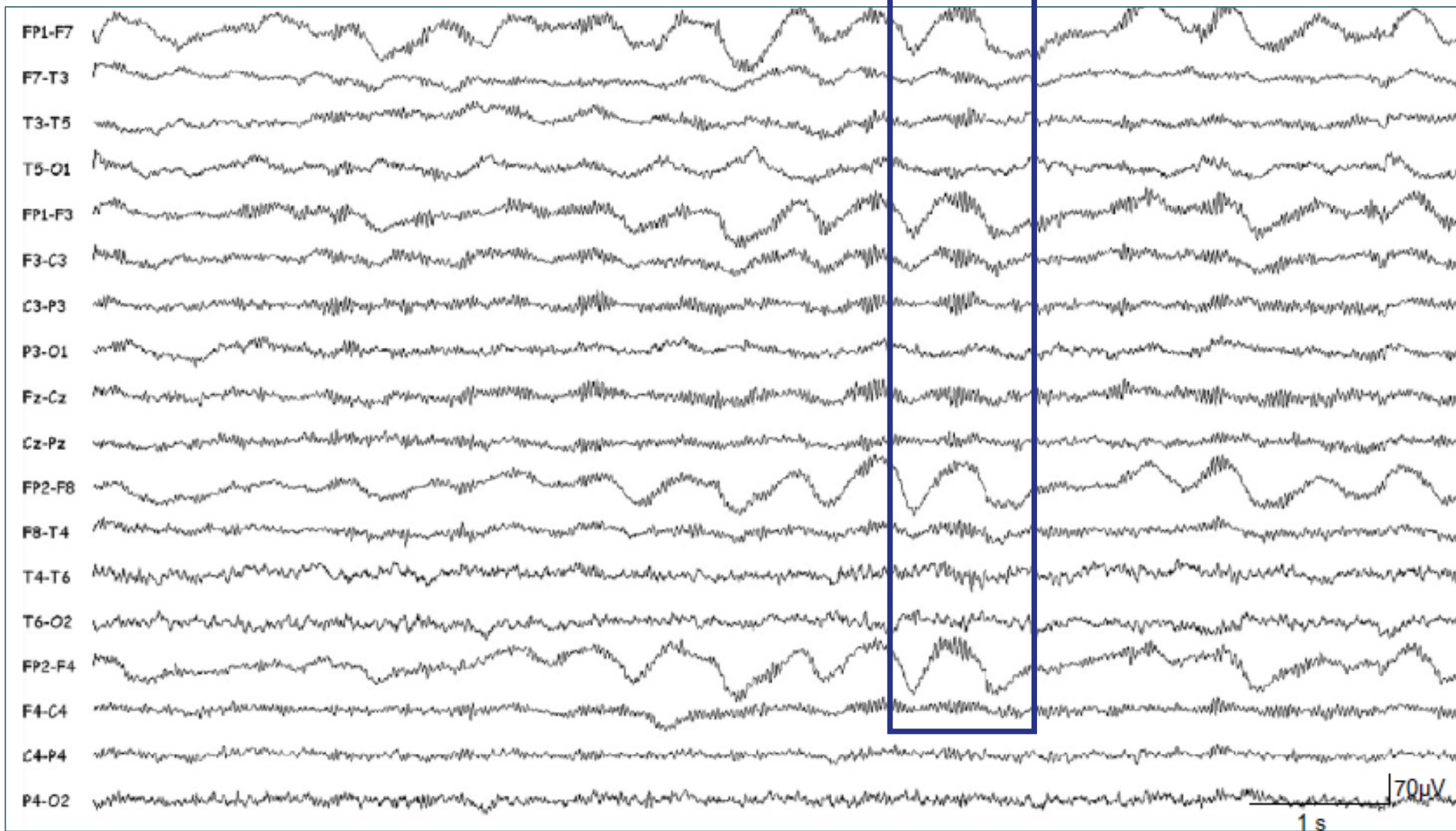






- Normal MRI
- Increased proteins, IgG in the CSF

Anti-NMDA+



AE: clues

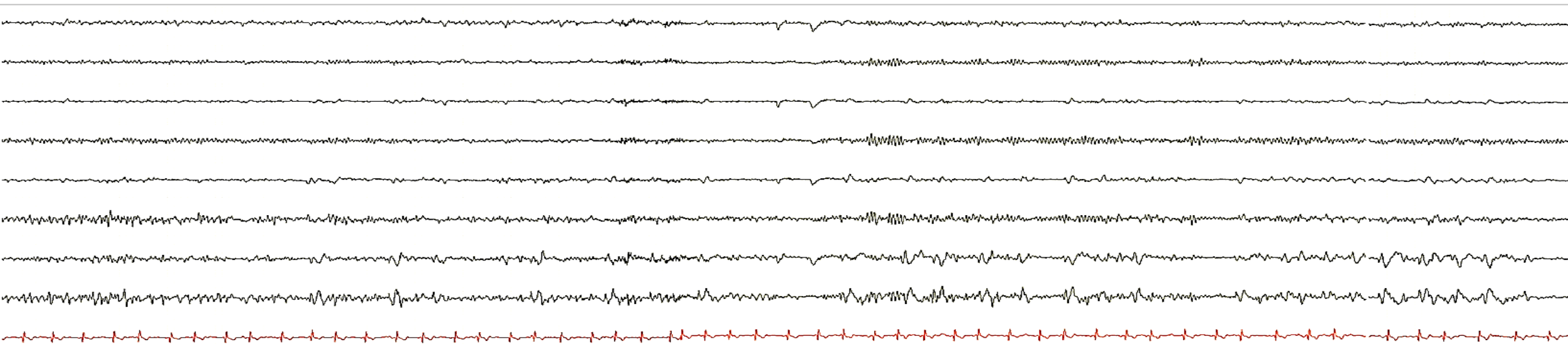
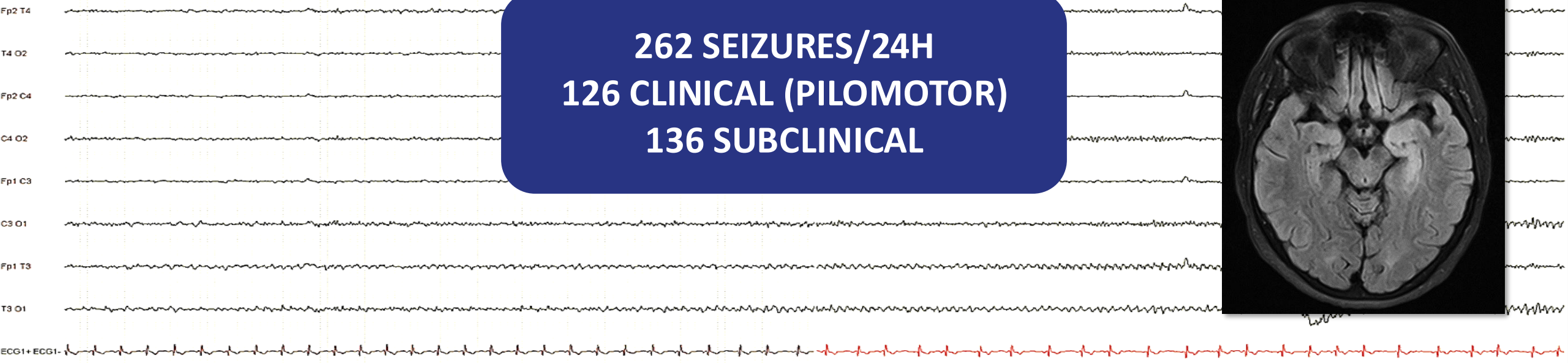
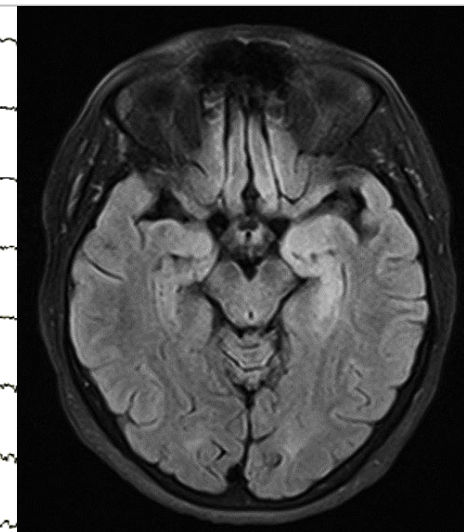
CLINICAL RED FLAGS

- Subacute onset
- High frequency (weekly/daily)
- Possible status epilepticus at onset
- Faciobrachial dystonic seizures (LGI1)
- Pilomotor seizures
- Multi-modal auras

EEG RED FLAGS

- Subclinical seizures
- Sensitivity to HV
- Possible peculiar triggers
- Bilateral independent seizures
- Ictal shift
- Possible multiple ictal patterns

262 SEIZURES/24H
126 CLINICAL (PILOMOTOR)
136 SUBCLINICAL



BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Hyperventilation-induced focal seizures in adults: think autoimmune encephalitis


Richard A. Wennberg 

Table 1. Routine EEG recordings with hyperventilation-induced focal seizures.

Patient (Age, y/Sex)	1 (61/M)	1 (61/M)	2 (35/F)	3 (66/M)	4 (49/M)	5 (71/M)	6 (43/M)
HV-induced seizures	2 L T subclinical	1 L → R T subclinical	1 R T clinical	1 R → L T subclinical	1 R T subclinical	1 L → R T clinical	1 L T subclinical
Spontaneous seizures	1 R T subclinical	0	0	2 L T subclinical	0	0	0
Interictal epileptiform discharges	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Other EEG abnormalities	None	None	None	B T int theta/delta	None	None	None
Time from illness onset to EEG	1 week	2 weeks	18 months	4 years	10 months	1 month	9 months
Diagnosis before EEG	No	No	AE ^a	AE ^b	AE ^a	No	AE ^a
Diagnosis after EEG		AE ^a	AE ^a	AE ^b	AE ^a	AE ^c	AE ^a
Hyponatremia at illness onset		No	Yes ^d	Yes ^e	Yes ^e	No	Yes ^e
Anti-seizure medication at time of EEG	None	None	LVT 1500bid, CLB 10qhs	LVT 1500bid	LVT 500bid	None	LVT 1250bid
Immunotherapy before EEG	No	No	Yes ^{f,g,h,i,j}	Yes ^{f,g,h,k}	Yes ^{f,g,h}	No	Yes ^{f,g,h}
Immunotherapy at time of EEG	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes ^h
Immunotherapy after EEG		Yes ^h	Yes ^g	Yes ^{f,g,k}	Yes ^{f,g,j}	Yes ^{f,h}	Yes ^{h,j}

- ✓ HV is a standard activating procedure in EEG
- ✓ The proportion of focal epilepsy patients with HV-triggered seizures is 0.46%



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Seizure: European Journal of Epilepsy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/seizure



Clinical letter

Olfactory stimulus-induced temporal lobe seizures in limbic encephalitis

Federica Avorio, Alessandra Morano, Martina Fanella, Jinane Fattouch, Mariarita Albini, Luca M. Basili, Emanuele Cerulli Irelli, Giacomo Fisco, Mario Manfredi, Anna T. Giallonardo, Carlo Di Bonaventura*

Accepted: 29 June 2017

DOI: 10.1111/ane.12799

CLINICAL COMMENTARY

WILEY

Acta
Neurologica
Scandinavica

Musicogenic reflex seizures in epilepsy with glutamic acid decarboxylase antibodies

M. Falip¹ | L. Rodriguez-Bel² | S. Castañer³ | J. Miro¹ | S. Jaraba¹ | J. Mora⁴ | J. Bas⁵ | M. Carreño⁶

■ **Clinical commentary**

Epileptic Disord 2021; 23 (5): 1-6

Epileptic
Disorders

Musicogenic epilepsy in paraneoplastic limbic encephalitis: a video-EEG case report

Alessandra Morano¹, Biagio Orlando¹, Martina Fanella^{1,2}, Emanuele Cerulli Irelli¹, Claudio Colonnese³, Pierpaolo Quarato⁴, Anna Teresa Giallonardo¹, Carlo Di Bonaventura¹

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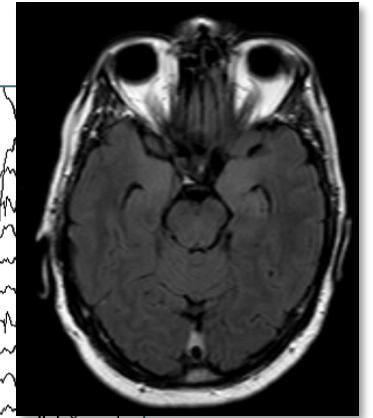
BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Epilepsia®

Musicogenic epilepsy: Expanding the spectrum of glutamic acid decarboxylase 65 neurological autoimmunity

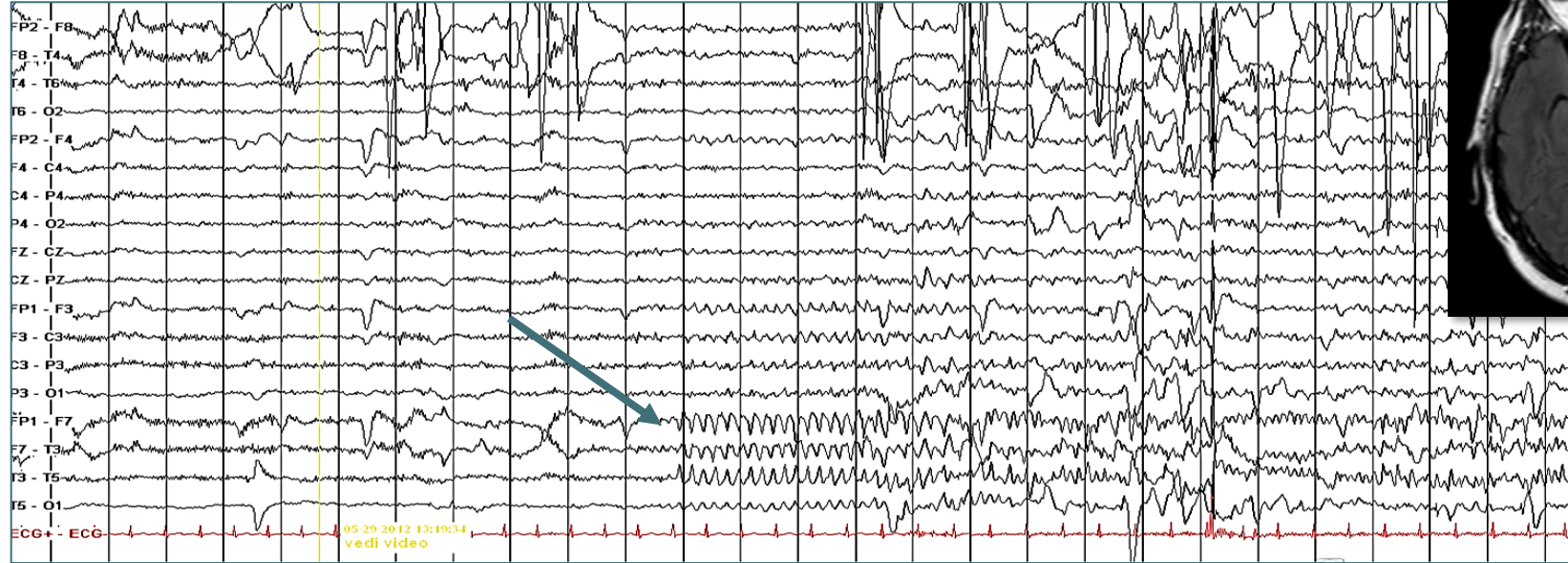
Kelsey M. Smith¹ | Nicholas L. Zalewski² | Adrian Budhram^{1,3} | Jeffrey W. Britton¹ | Elson So¹ | Gregory D. Cascino¹ | Anthony L. Ritaccio⁴ | Andrew McKeon^{1,5} | Sean J. Pittock^{1,5} | Divyanshu Dubey^{1,5}

BILATERAL INDEPENDENT



LEFT mTL SEIZURE

Epigastric sensation,
aphasia, amnesia



RIGHT mTL SEIZURE

No signs/symptoms

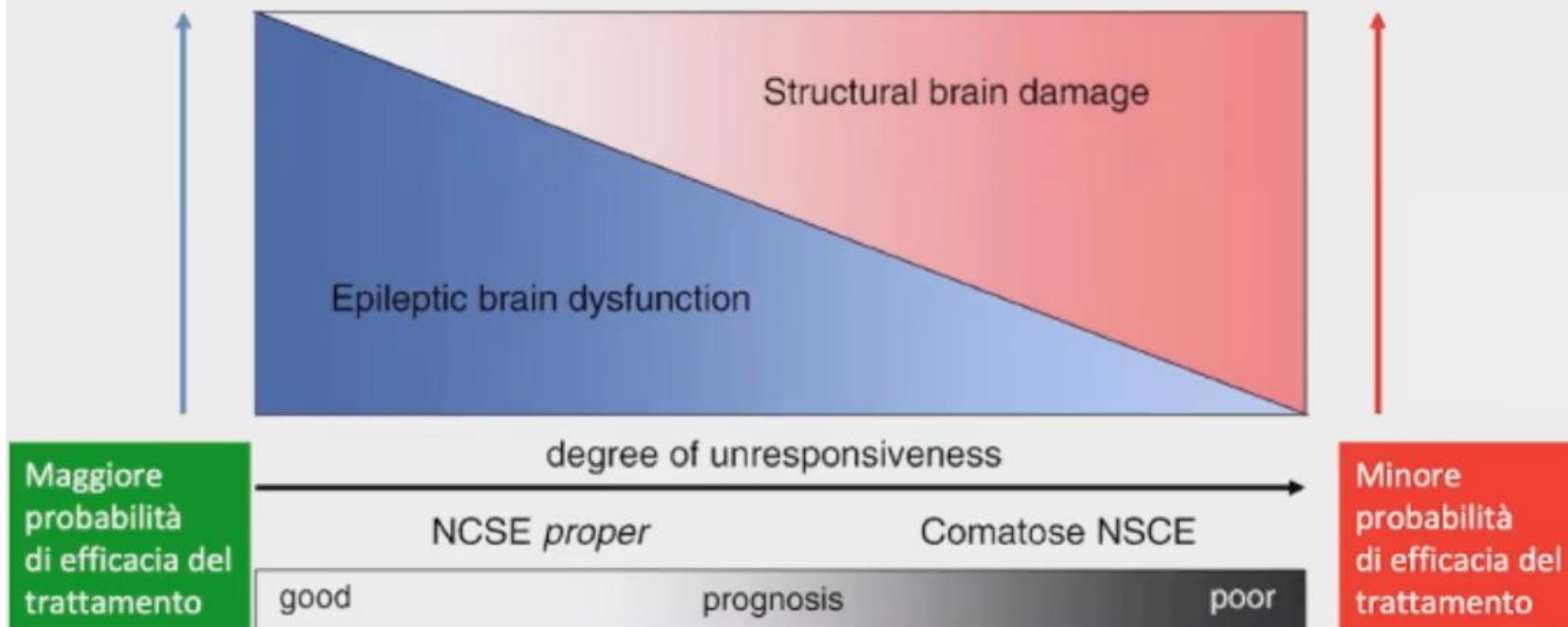
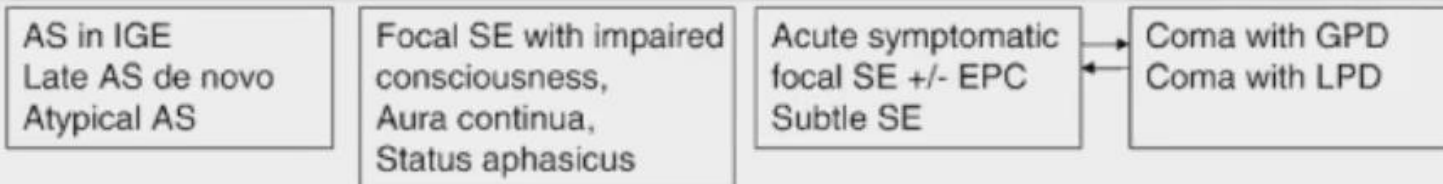


ICTAL SHIFTING



SENC come causa del disturbo di coscienza

SENC come conseguenza del danno cerebrale strutturale



E. Trinka, M. Leitinger / *Epilepsy & Behavior* 49 (2015) 203–222

To sum up

- Sensitive, but not specific
- High suspicion of NCSE
- Do pharmacological trials, *always!*
- Remember the '*unicorns*'