

# Role of EEG in diagnosis & management of status epilepticus



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

## Outline:

- ILAE-classification of SE: semio & EEG
- Role of EEG in diagnosing SE
  - EEG patterns in SE
  - EEG criteria for SE
  - Diagnostic accuracy of EEG in NCSE
- Role of EEG in management of SE
  - Monitoring therapeutic effect
  - Monitoring brain function during withdrawal
- Cases

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

## SPECIAL REPORT

### A definition and classification of status epilepticus – Report of the ILAE Task Force on Classification of Status Epilepticus

\*\*Eugen Trinka, §Hannah Cock, \*Dale Hesdorffer, #Andrea O. Rossetti, \*\*Ingrid E. Scheffer, ††Shlomo Shinnar, ‡Simon Shorvon, and §§Daniel H. Lowenstein

*Epilepsia*, \*\*(\*) 1–9, 2015  
doi:10.1111/epi.13121



Eugen Trinka is professor and chairman of Department of Neurology, Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg Austria.

## SUMMARY

The Commission on Classification and Terminology and the Commission on Epidemiology of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) have charged a Task Force to review concepts, definitions, and classification of status epilepticus (SE). The proposed new definition of SE is as follows: Status epilepticus is a condition resulting either from the failure of the mechanisms responsible for seizure termination or from the initiation of mechanisms, which lead to abnormally prolonged seizures (after time point t<sub>1</sub>). It is a condition, which can have long-term consequences (after time point t<sub>2</sub>), including neuronal death, neuronal injury, and alteration of neuronal networks, depending on the type and duration of seizures. This definition is conceptual, with two operational dimensions: the first is the length of the seizure and the time point (t<sub>1</sub>) beyond which the seizure should be regarded as “continuous seizure activity.” The second time point (t<sub>2</sub>) is the time of ongoing seizure activity after which there is a risk of long-term consequences. In the case of convulsive (tonic-clonic) SE, both time points (t<sub>1</sub> at 5 min and t<sub>2</sub> at 30 min) are based on animal experiments and clinical research. This evidence is incomplete, and there is furthermore considerable variation, so these time points should be considered as the best estimates currently available. Data are not yet available for other forms of SE, but as knowledge and understanding increase, time points can be defined for specific forms of SE based on scientific evidence and incorporated into the definition, without changing the underlying concepts. A new diagnostic classification system of SE is proposed, which will provide a framework for clinical diagnosis, investigation, and therapeutic approaches for each patient. There are four axes: (1) semiology; (2) etiology; (3) electroencephalography (EEG) correlates; and (4) age. Axis 1 (semiology) lists different forms of SE divided into those with prominent motor systems, those without prominent motor systems, and currently indeterminate conditions (such as acute confusional states with epileptiform EEG patterns). Axis 2 (etiology) is divided into subcategories of known and unknown causes. Axis 3 (EEG correlates) adopts the latest recommendations by consensus panels to use the following descriptors for the EEG: name of pattern, morphology, location, time-related features, modulation, and effect of intervention. Finally, axis 4 divides age groups into neonatal, infancy, childhood, adolescent and adulthood, and elderly.

KEY WORDS: Status epilepticus, Seizure, Definition, Classification, Seizure duration.

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

## (A) With prominent motor symptoms

- A.1 Convulsive SE (CSE, synonym: tonic-clonic SE)
  - A.1.a. Generalized convulsive
  - A.1.b. Focal onset evolving into bilateral convulsive SE
    - A.1.c. Unknown whether focal or generalized
- A.2 Myoclonic SE (prominent epileptic myoclonic jerks)
  - A.2.a. With coma
  - A.2.b. Without coma
- A.3 Focal motor
  - A.3.a. Repeated focal motor seizures (Jacksonian)
  - A.3.b. Epilepsia partialis continua (EPC)
  - A.3.c. Adversive status
  - A.3.d. Oculoclonic status
  - A.3.e. Ictal paresis (i.e., focal inhibitory SE)
- A.4 Tonic status
- A.5 Hyperkinetic SE

## (B) Without prominent motor symptoms (i.e., nonconvulsive SE, NCSE)

- B.1 NCSE with coma (including so-called “subtle” SE)
- B.2 NCSE without coma
  - B.2.a. Generalized
    - B.2.a.a. Typical absence status
    - B.2.a.b. Atypical absence status
    - B.2.a.c. Myoclonic absence status
  - B.2.b. Focal
    - B.2.b.a. Without impairment of consciousness (aura continua, with autonomic, sensory, visual, olfactory, gustatory, emotional/psychic/experiential, or auditory symptoms)
    - B.2.b.b. Aphasic status
    - B.2.b.c. With impaired consciousness
  - B.2.c. Unknown whether focal or generalized
    - B.2.c.a. Autonomic SE

Can be diagnosed  
without EEG

EEG is needed  
for diagnosis

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

- **Wide variety of ictal EEG-patterns**



- **Wide variety of SE EEG-patterns**

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

## Several attempts to develop EEG-criteria for NCSE:

<p><b>An assessment of nonconvulsive seizures in the intensive care unit using continuous EEG monitoring:</b></p> <p>An investigation of variables associated with mortality</p> <p><b>Table 1 Criteria for seizure</b></p> <p><b>Guideline:</b> To qualify at least <i>one</i> of primary criteria 1–3 and <i>one or more</i> of secondary criteria, with discharges &gt;10 seconds</p>	<p>G. Bryan Young, MD; Kenneth G. Jordan, MD; and Gordon S. Doig, MSc, DVM</p> <p>NEUROLOGY 1996;47:83–89</p>
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J Clin Neurophysiol, 2005 Apr;22(2):79–91.

**Which EEG patterns warrant treatment in the critically ill? Reviewing the evidence for treatment of periodic epileptiform discharges and related patterns.**

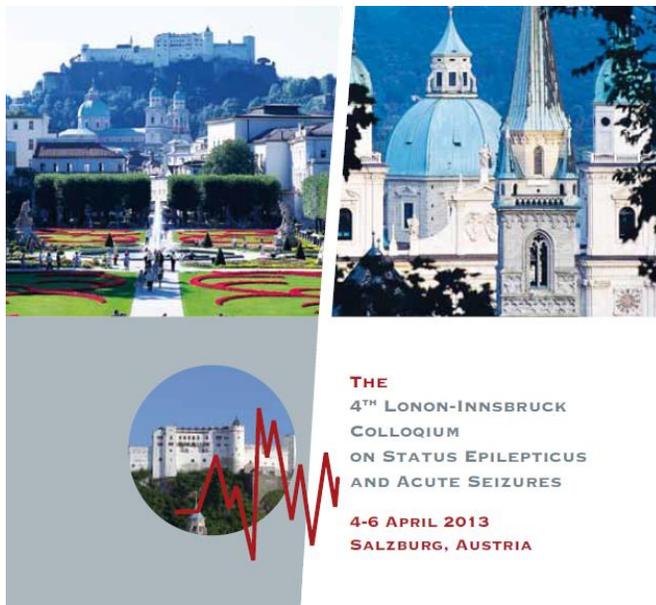
Chong DJ<sup>1</sup>, Hirsch LJ.

### EEG criteria for nonconvulsive status epilepticus

Peter W. Kaplan

*Epilepsia*, 48(Suppl. 8):39–41, 2007

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



## STATUS EPILEPTICUS 2013

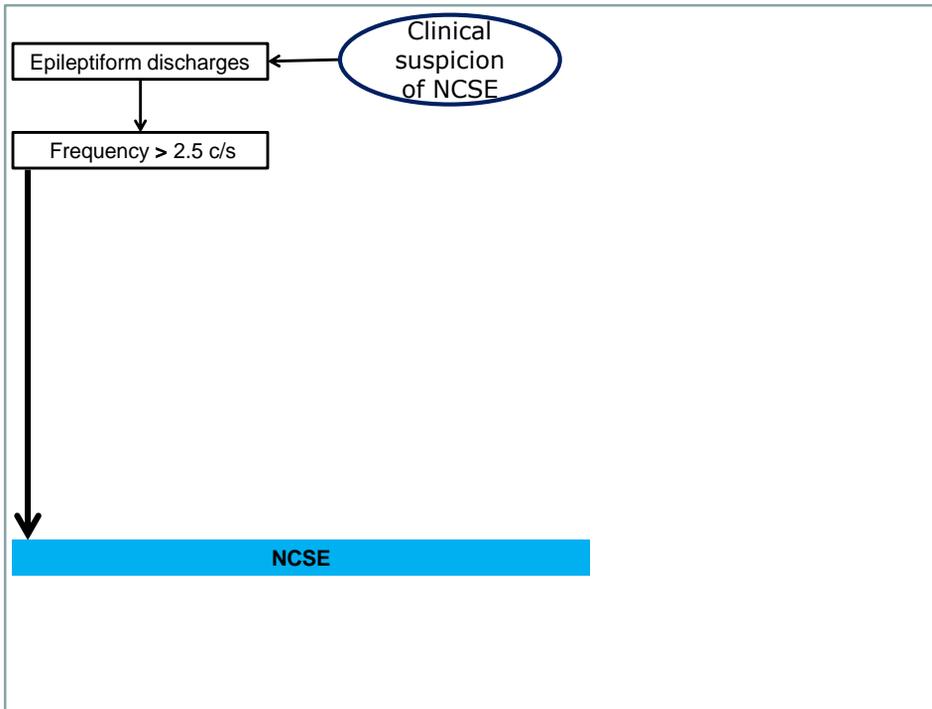
### Unified EEG terminology and criteria for nonconvulsive status epilepticus

\*†Sándor Beniczky, ‡Lawrence J. Hirsch, §Peter W. Kaplan, ¶Ronit Pressler,  
\*\*Gerhard Bauer, ††‡Harald Aurlen, ††‡‡Jan C. Brøgger, and §§Eugen Trinka

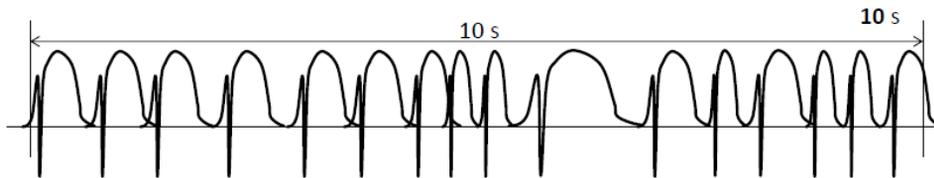
**Table 1. Working clinical criteria for nonconvulsive status epilepticus**

Patients without known epileptic encephalopathy EDs > 2.5 Hz, or EDs ≤ 2.5 Hz or rhythmic delta/theta activity (>0.5 Hz) AND one of the following: EEG and clinical improvement after IV AED <sup>a</sup> , or Subtle clinical ictal phenomena during the EEG patterns mentioned above, or Typical spatiotemporal evolution <sup>b</sup>
Patients with known epileptic encephalopathy Increase in prominence or frequency of the features mentioned above, when compared to baseline with observable change in clinical state Improvement of clinical and EEG <sup>c</sup> features with IV AEDs

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



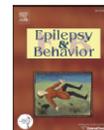
**ED: > 25 SW/ 10 sec.**



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Brief Communication

Salzburg Consensus Criteria for Non-Convulsive Status Epilepticus – approach to clinical application

M. Leitinger<sup>a,d</sup>, S. Beniczky<sup>b,c</sup>, A. Rohrer<sup>a,d</sup>, E. Gardella<sup>b</sup>, G. Kalls<sup>a,d</sup>, E. Qerama<sup>c</sup>, J. Höfler<sup>a,d</sup>, A. Hess Lindberg-Larsen<sup>c</sup>, G. Kuchukhidze<sup>a,d</sup>, J. Dobesberger<sup>a,d</sup>, P.B. Langthaler<sup>a,d</sup>, E. Trinka<sup>a,d,\*</sup>

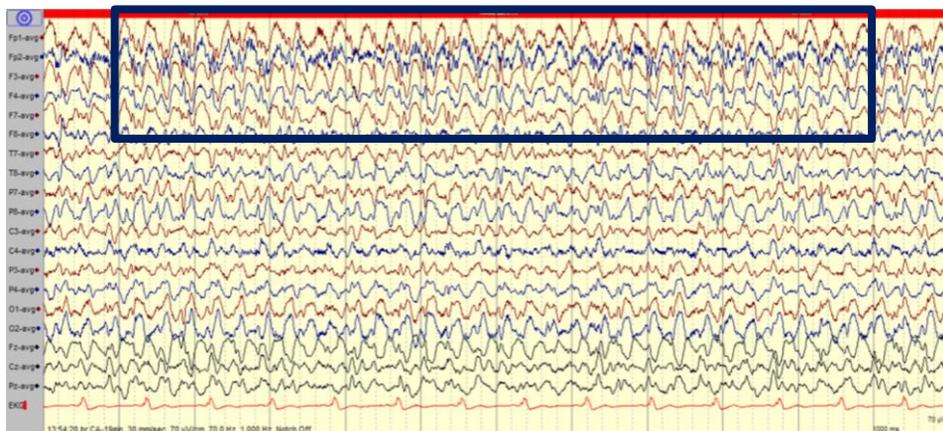
<sup>a</sup> Department of Neurology, Christian Doppler Klinik, Paracelsus Medical University, Salzburg, Austria

<sup>b</sup> Department of Clinical Neurophysiology, Danish Epilepsy Centre, Dianalund, Denmark

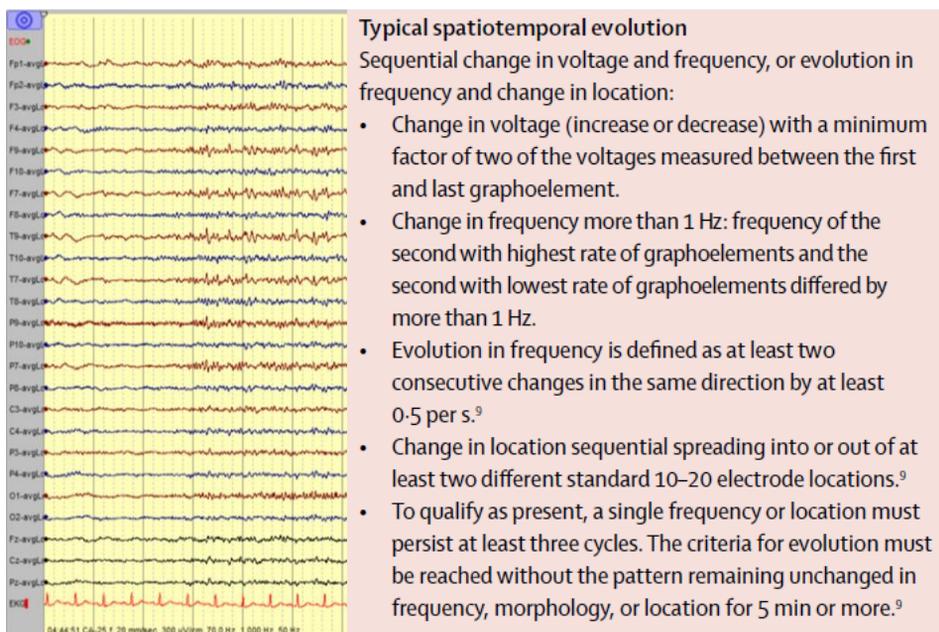
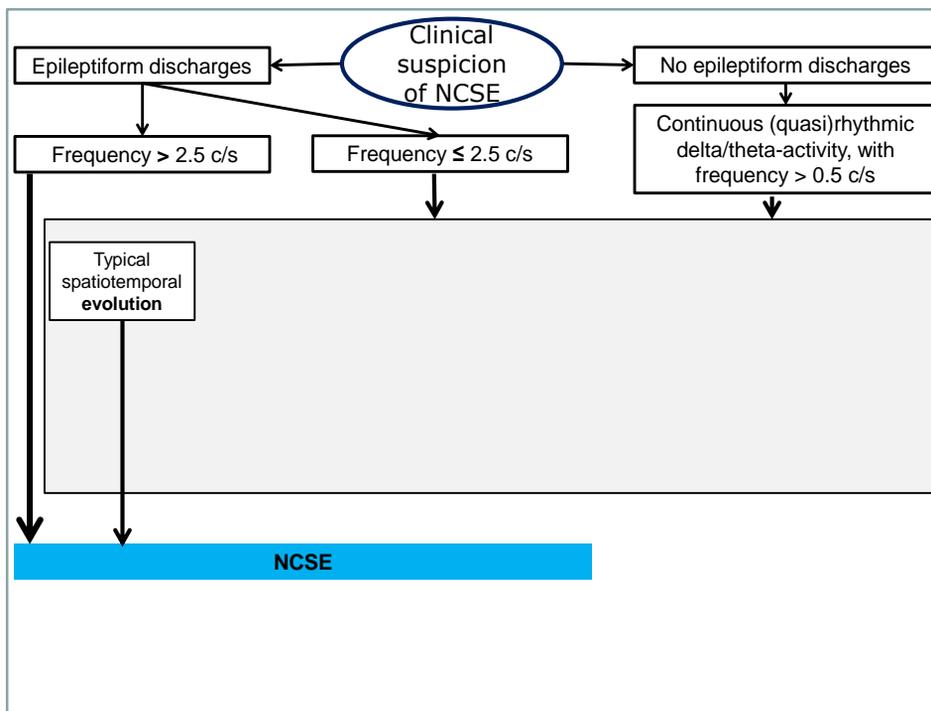
<sup>c</sup> Department of Clinical Neurophysiology, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

<sup>d</sup> Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience, Salzburg, Austria

**31 SW / 10 seconds**

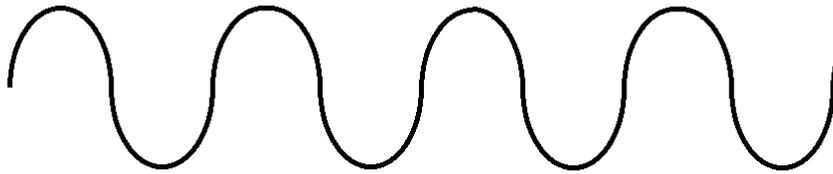


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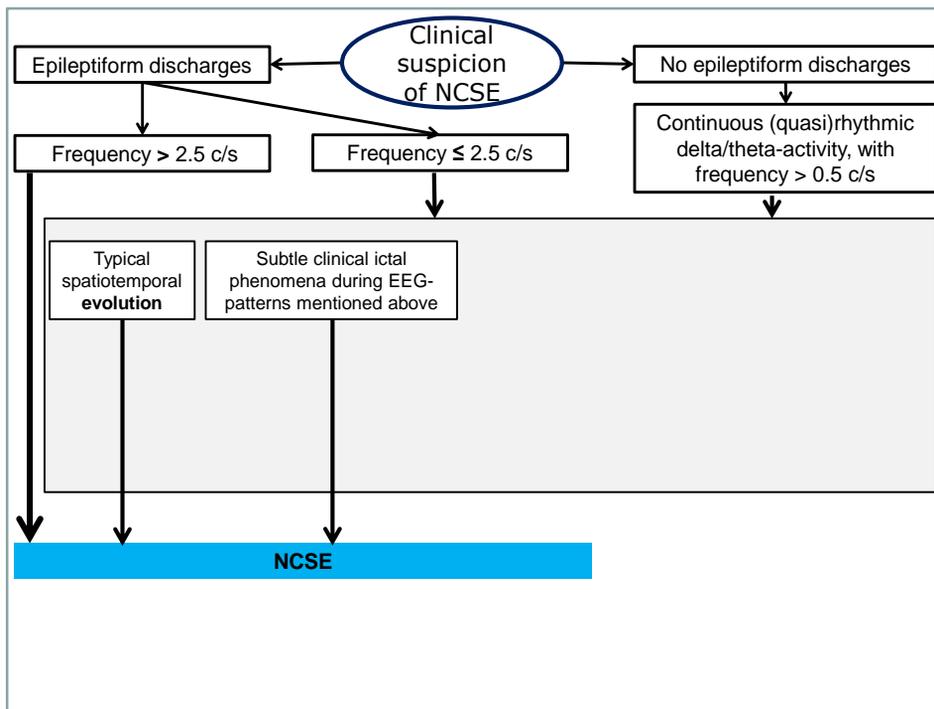
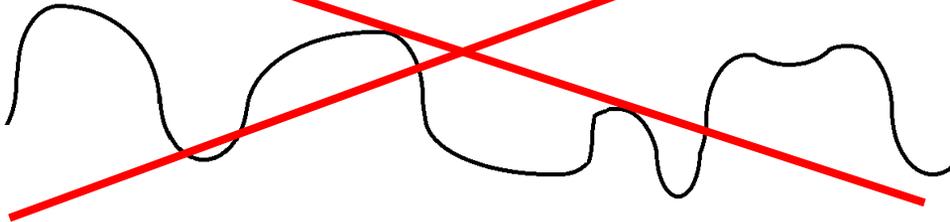


Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

**(Quasi)Rhythmic activity**



**Polymorphic activity (delta)**



## Semiology of Subtle Seizures

- Discrete phenomena like:
  - twitches of the eyelids, face, jaw, extremities or the trunk
  - head and/or eye deviation
  - peculiar automatisms.
- They occur when the patient experiences such a degree of encephalopathy that an electromechanical dissociation occurs, so that in spite of continuous ictal activity in the brain, only subtle motor phenomena are generated.

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

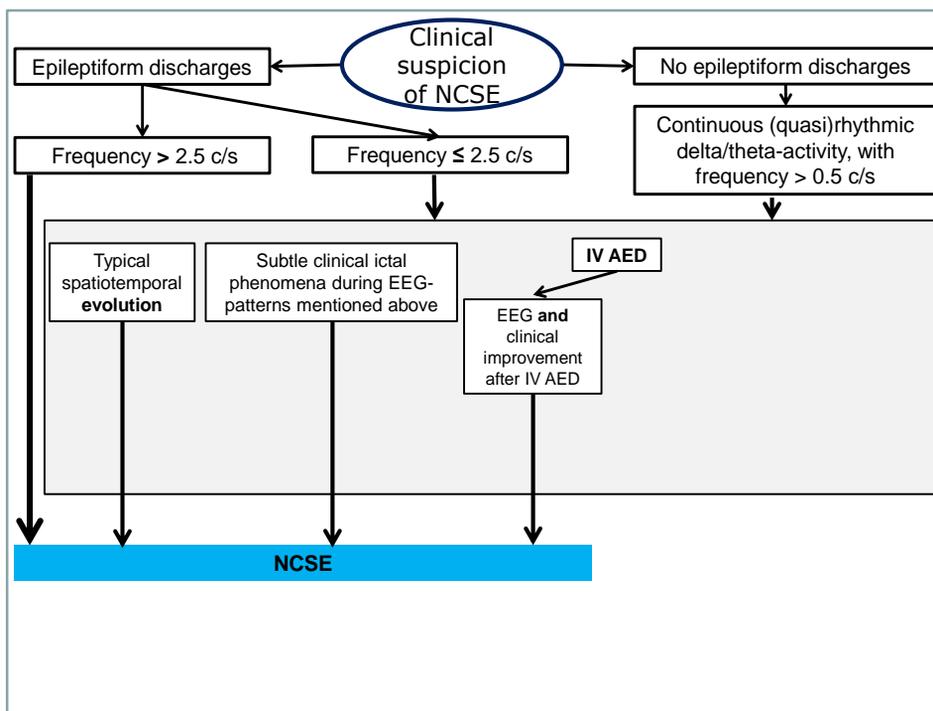
## Video – subtle seizures

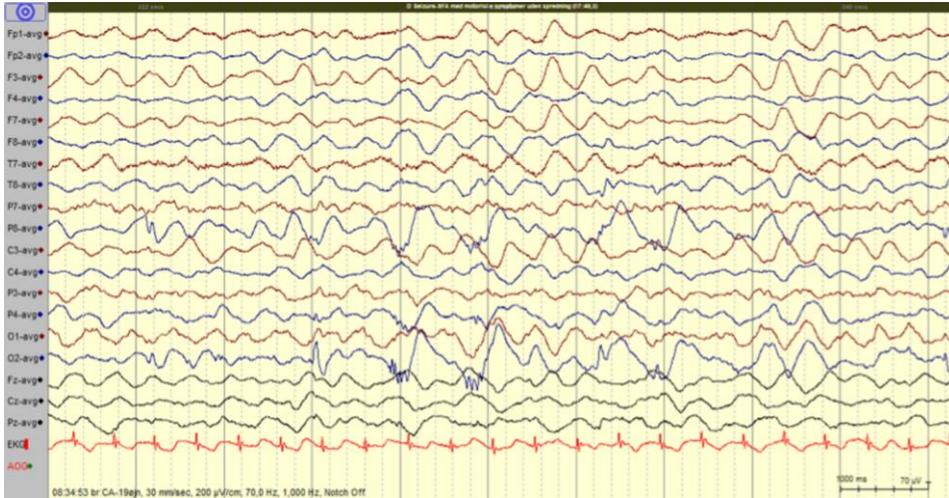


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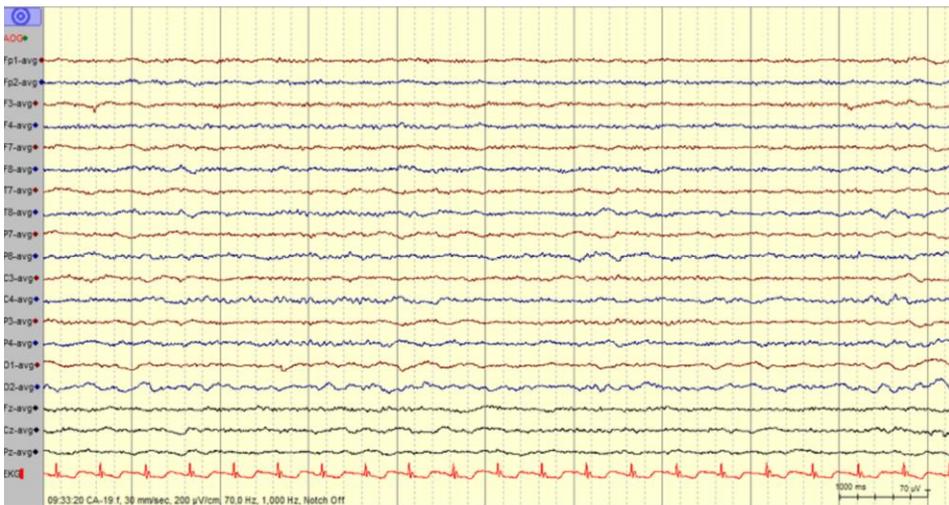
Subtle seizure phenomena	NCSE (n=14)			Coma without NCSE (n=46)		
	Number of patients	Body part	Occurrence	Number of patients	Body part	Occurrence
Myoclonus	10 (71%)	Tongue: 2 Perioral: 2 Face: 2  UL: 6 LL: 4	Almost continuous: 3 Sporadic: 2 In clusters: 5 (4-30; 20)*	19 (41%)	Eyelid: 1 Face: 1 UL: 11 LL: 7 Axial: 3	Almost continuous: 5 Sporadic: 8 In clusters: 6 (4-120; 9)*
Tonic muscle activation	3 (21%)	UL: 1 LL: 3	Duration: 1-10 s (mean: 5 s)	19 (41%)	Face: 1 UL: 16 LL: 12 Axial: 1	Duration: 1-30s (mean: 4 s)
Automatisms	2 (14%)	Oro-facial: 1 UL: 1	Almost continuous: 1 Sporadic: 1	8 (17%)	Oro-facial: 4 UL: 3 LL: 2	Almost continuous: 2 Sporadic: 6
Eye-deviation	2 (14%)		Almost continuous: 1 Sporadic: 1	4 (9%)		Almost continuous: 1 Sporadic: 3

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

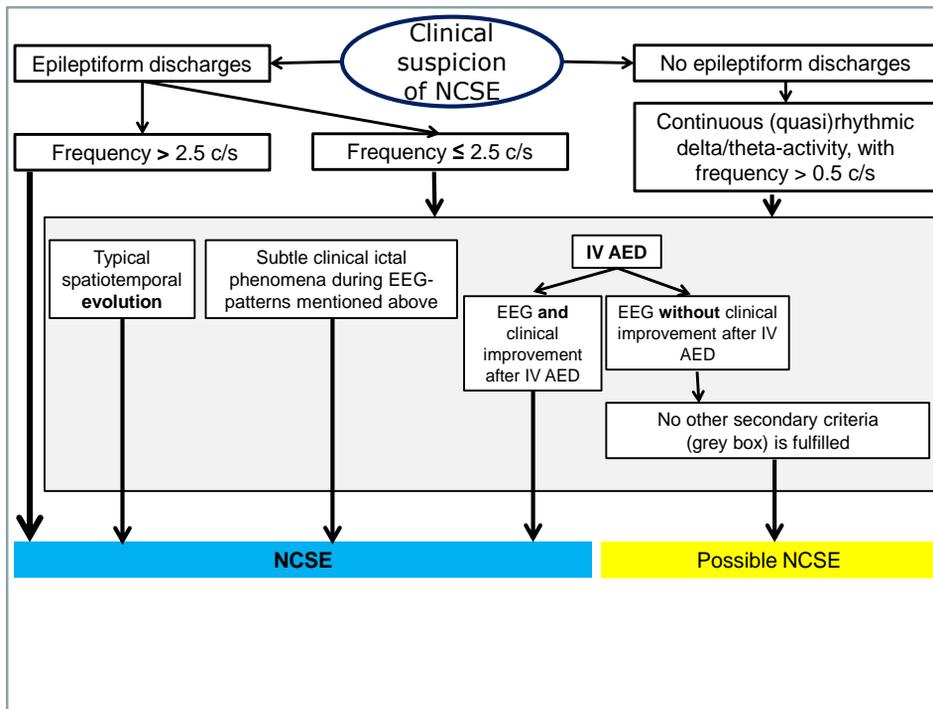




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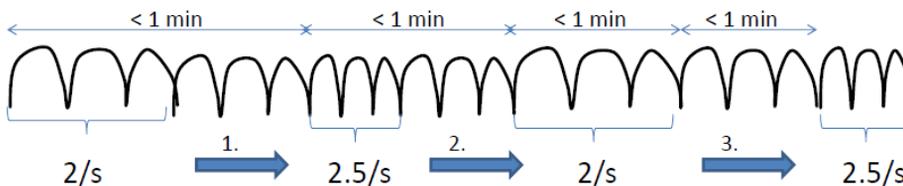


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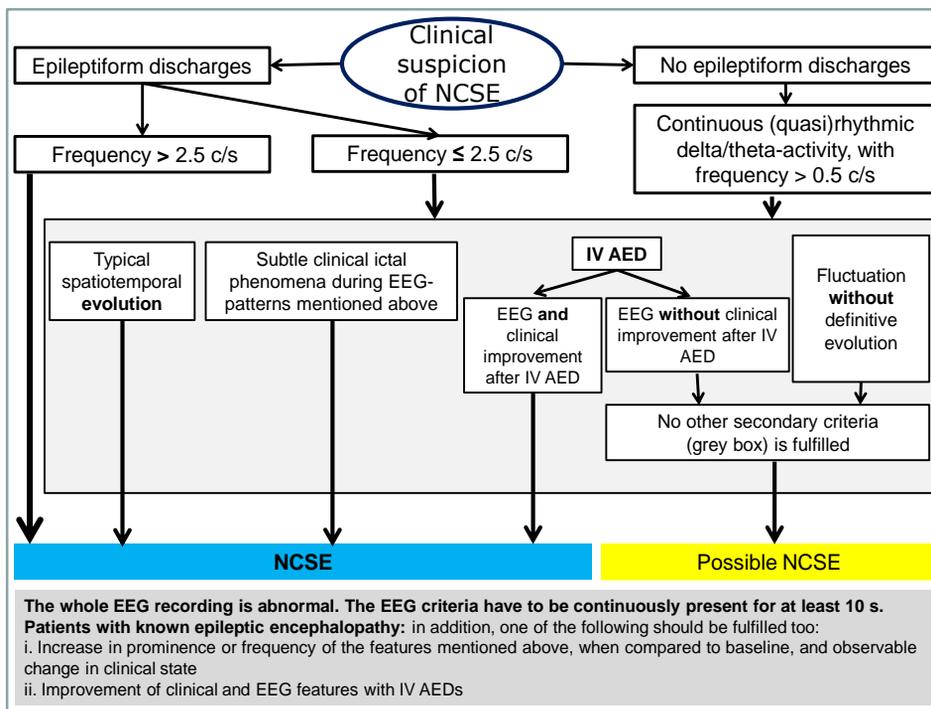


**Fluctuation without definite evolution**

Three or more changes, not more than 1 min apart, in frequency (by at least 0.5 per s) or three or more changes in location (by at least one standard interelectrode distance), but not qualifying as evolving.<sup>9</sup>



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



- **How accurate is this?**
- **Does it work in all the different types of NCSE patients?**
- **None of the NCSE-criteria have been clinically validated before.**

## Inter-rater agreement for the Salzburg criteria:

	All patients	Validation group	Control group
Salzburg criteria	0.87 (0.81–0.92)	0.81 (0.71–0.89)	0.94 (0.87–0.98)

**Table 2: Inter-rater agreement ( $\kappa$  [95% CI])**



### Diagnostic accuracy of the Salzburg EEG criteria for non-convulsive status epilepticus: a retrospective study

*Lancet Neurol* 2016; 15: 1054–62  
 Markus Leitinger, Eugen Trinka, Elena Gardella, Alexandra Rohrer, Gudrun Kalss, Erisela Qerama, Julia Höfler, Alexander Hess, Georg Zimmermann, Giorgi Kuchukhidze, Judith Dobesberger, Patrick B Langthaler, Sándor Beniczky

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

## Diagnostic accuracy of the Salzburg criteria:

Patients (n)	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Accuracy (%)
120	97.7	89.6	92.5

- Sliding window: 10 seconds
- Positives = NCSE + Possible NCSE

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

	Patients (n)	Time-epoch	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	PPV (%)	NPV (%)	Accuracy (%)
<b>Coma</b>							
Non-coma	88	10 s	96.7	87.9	80.6	98.1	90.9
Coma	32	10 s	100	94.7	92.9	100	96.9
<b>Hypoxic</b>							
Non-hypoxic	105	10 s	97.2	88.4	81.4	98.4	91.4
Post-hypoxic	15	10 s	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Epilepsy</b>							
Pre-existing epilepsy	45	10 s	95.7	81.8	84.6	94.7	88.9
Without pre-existing epilepsy	75	10 s	100	92.7	83.3	100	94.7
<b>Epileptic encephalopathy</b>							
Epileptic encephalopathy	6	10 s	75.0	100	100	66.7	83.3
Without epileptic encephalopathy	114	10 s	100	89.3	83.0	100	93.0
<b>Age</b>							
Age <10 years	10	10 s	100	100	100	100	100
Age ≥10 years	110	10 s	97.1	89.3	81.0	98.5	91.8

Data are n (%), unless otherwise stated. No significant differences between subgroups. PPV=positive predictive value. NPV=negative predictive value.

**Table 3: Diagnostic accuracy for the various subgroups and disorders in the validation cohort**

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



## Diagnostic accuracy of the Salzburg EEG criteria for non-convulsive status epilepticus: a retrospective study

*Markus Leitinger, Eugen Trinka, Elena Gardella, Alexandra Rohrer, Gudrun Kalss, Erisela Qerama, Julia Höfler, Alexander Hess, Georg Zimmermann, Giorgi Kuchukhidze, Judith Döbesberger, Patrick B Langthaler, Sándor Beniczky*

*Lancet Neurol 2016; 15: 1054-62*

- The Salzburg criteria for NCSE:
  - have high diagnostic accuracy
  - excellent inter-rater agreement
  - suitable for implementation in clinical practice.

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

## Next (2020?) edition of ACNS terminology for CIPs

- Will include electrographic seizures and non-convulsive status epilepticus
- All-in-one paper ☺
- Largely based on Salzburg criteria- though with some minor modification

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

- **Seizures:**
  1. Electrographic:
    - a. EDs  $\geq 2.5$  Hz ( $\geq 25$  discharges /10s;  $\geq 10$ s) or
    - b. Evolving pattern ( $\geq 10$ s)
  3. Electroclinical:
    - a. Time-locked clinical correlate (any duration) OR
    - b. EEG and clinical improvement with an IV-AEDs  
(Only EEG improvement = possible NCSz /NCSE)
- **Status epilepticus**
  - a.  $> 10$  minutes *or*
  - b. total duration of  $>20\%$  (12 min) of any 60-minutes

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

- **Diagnostic dichotomy: SE = yes / no**
- **Patterns that indicate significantly higher seizure-risk**
  - LPDs: the highest association with seizures
    - regardless of frequency
    - association was greater when the Plus modifier was present
  - LRDA & GPDs were associated with seizures when:
    - Frequency  $\geq 1.5$  Hz, or
    - Plus modifier was present
  - Increased prevalence / frequency = increased seizure-risk

*CEEGs from 4772 critically ill patients  
Rodriguez Ruiz et al, JAMA Neurol 2017*

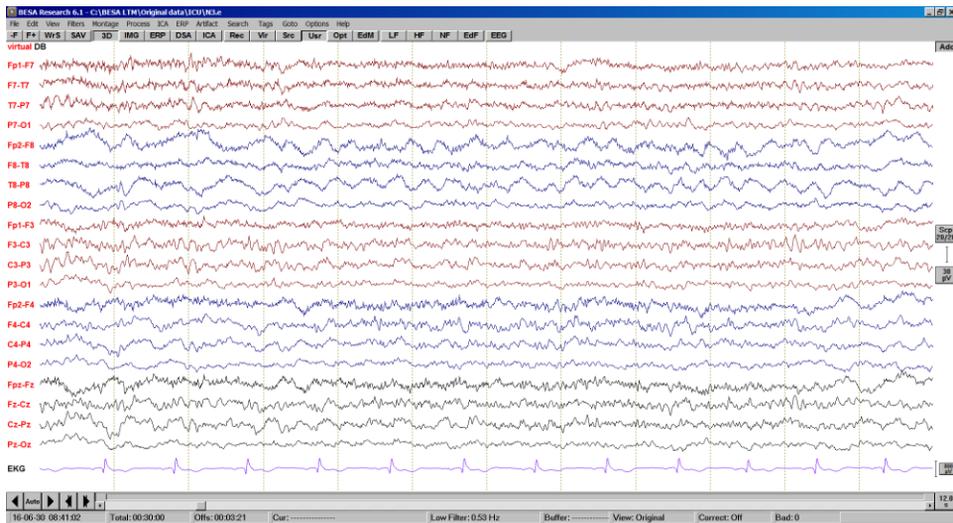
Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

## Brief potentially Ictal Rhythmic Discharges (BIRDS)

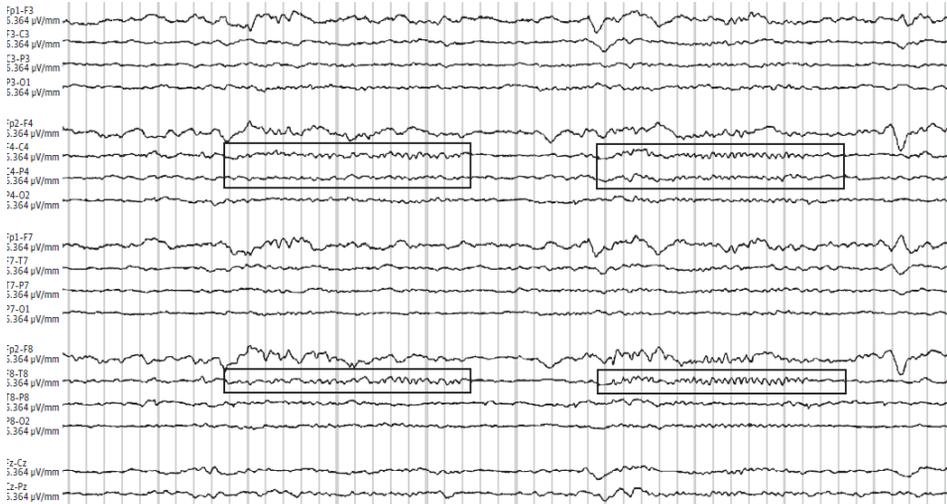
- Focal or generalized, sharply contoured rhythmic activity > 4 Hz
  - Brief: 0.5→10s, but at least 6 cycles
  - Not consistent with a known normal pattern or benign variant
- BIRDS –associated with seizures (BIRDS: 75% vs. No-BIRDS: 25%)

Yoo et al., JAMA Neurol 2014

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



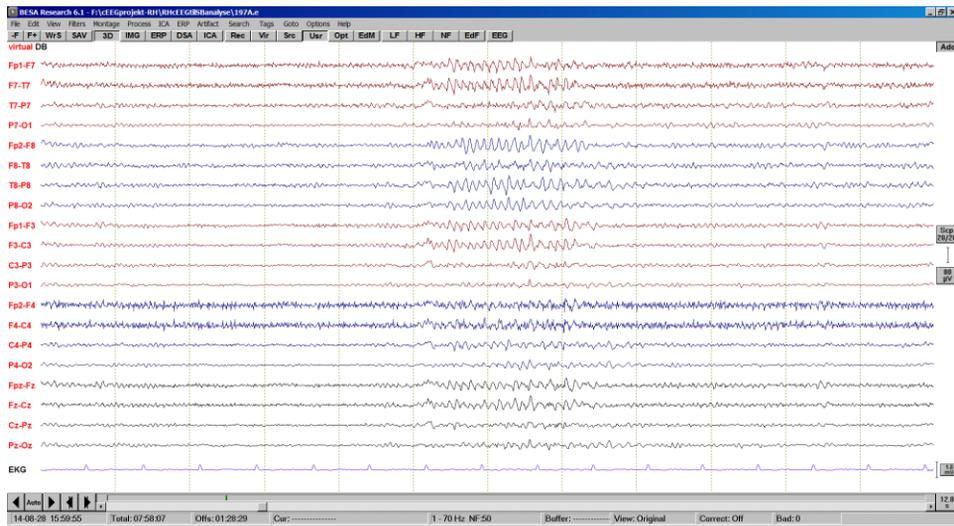
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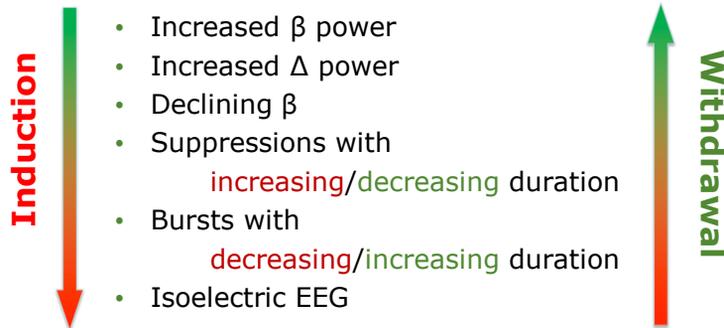


# BIRDS



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

## Monitoring of therapeutic effect: Anesthetics / therapeutic coma

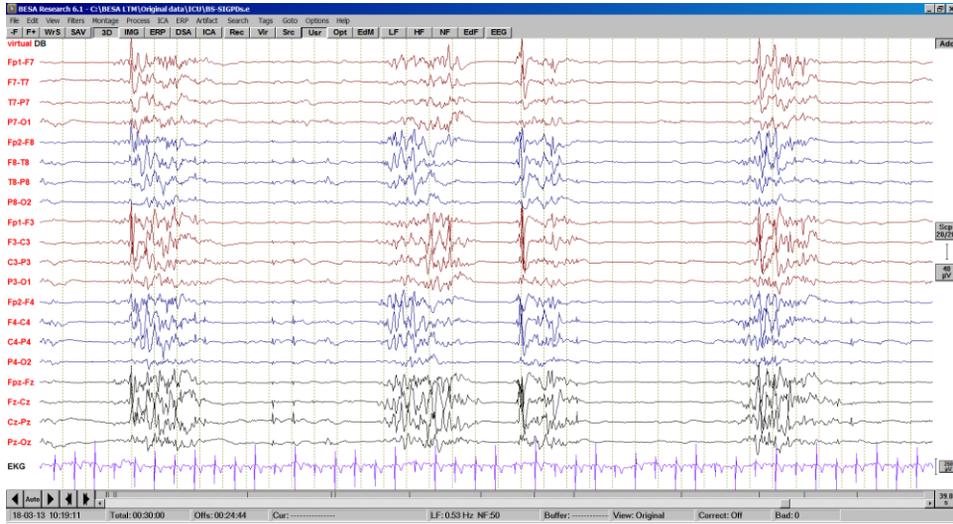


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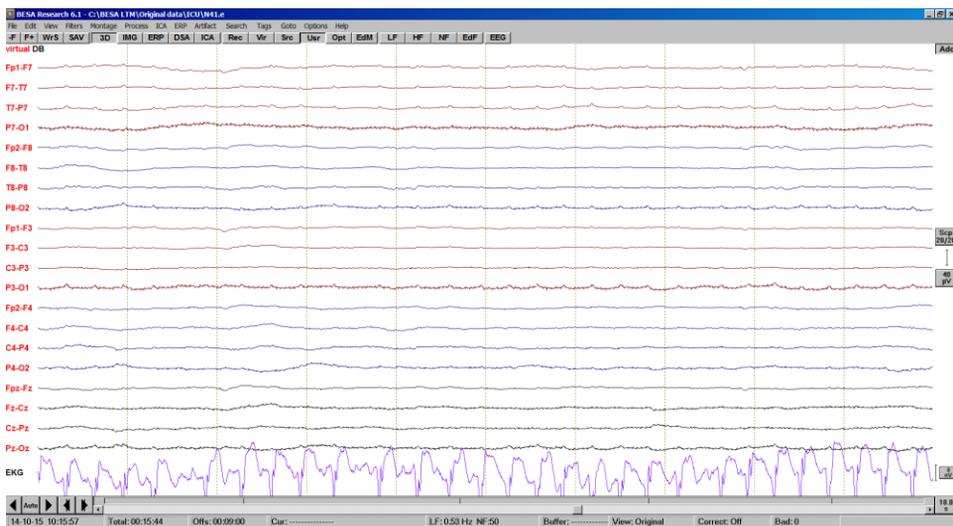
## Monitoring of therapeutic effect: Anesthetics / therapeutic coma

- Seizure suppression
- Burst-suppression?
  - Bursts (up to 5s) + suppression (<10  $\mu$ V; 8-12 s)
- Suppression (Isoelectric EEG)

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

## Monitoring of brain function during withdrawal of anesthetics / after SE

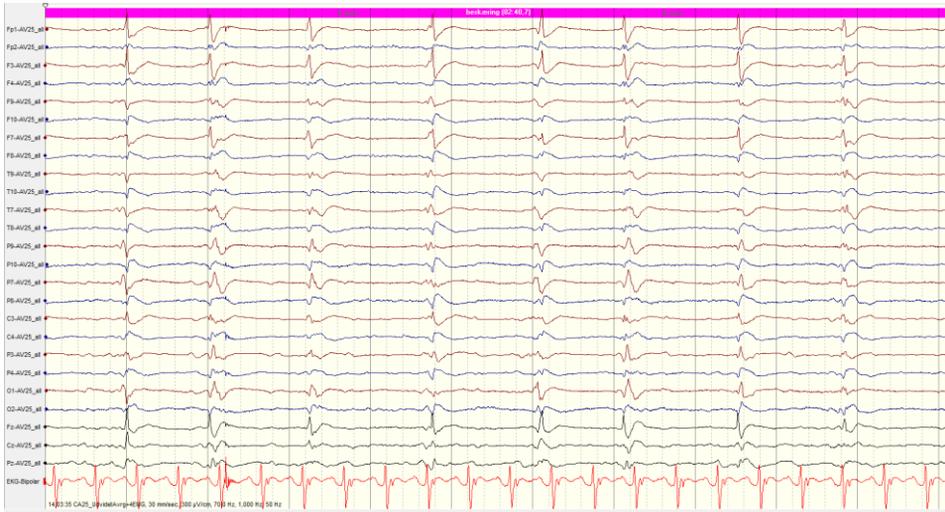
- Do seizures / SE return?
- Emergence of EEG patterns indicating increased seizure-risk?
- CAVEAT: Paradoxical effect of drug-withdrawal
  - Anesthetic wean → hyperexcitability
  - Successful wean despite emergence of Ictal–Interictal EEG patterns during the weaning (Alvin et al., Neurocrit Care 2018)

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

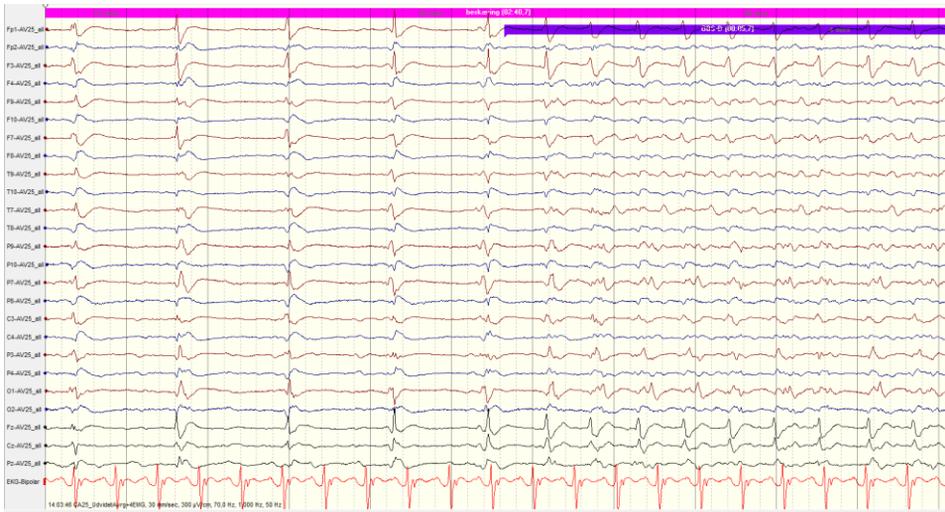
### **Case 1**

- 72-yo male
- Thalamic hemorrhage and right hemiparesis
- Three days after admission: altered consciousness → GCS=10
- CT: no new lesion

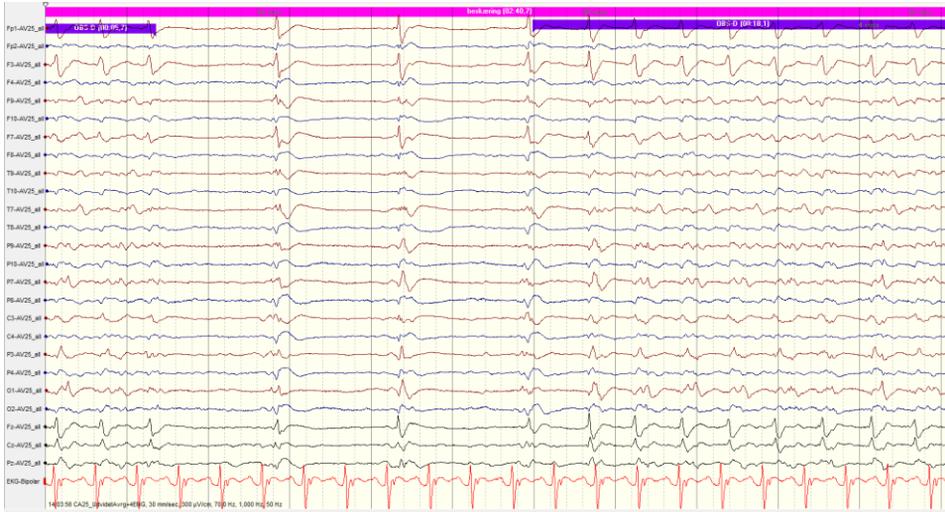
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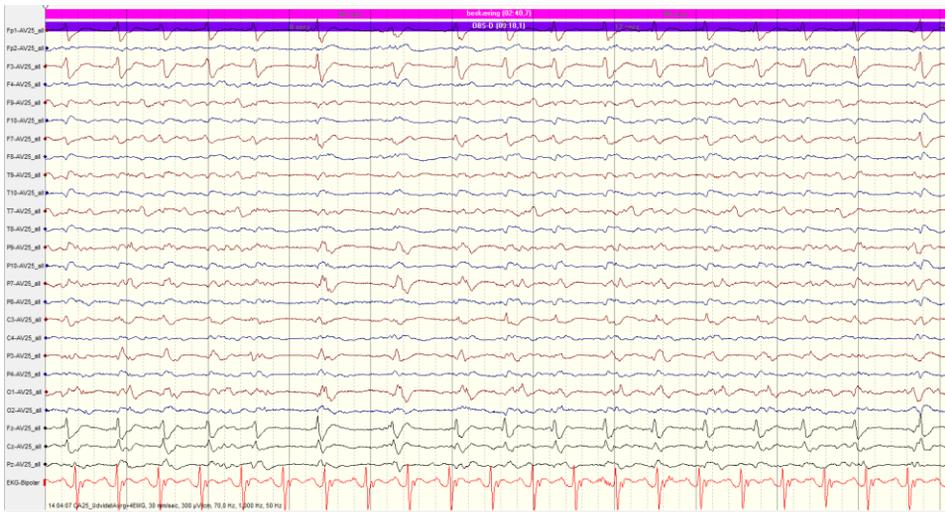
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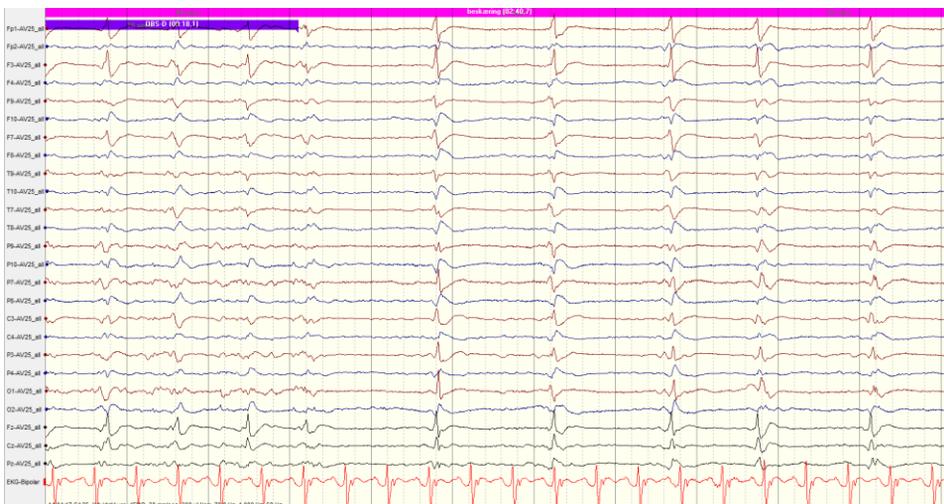
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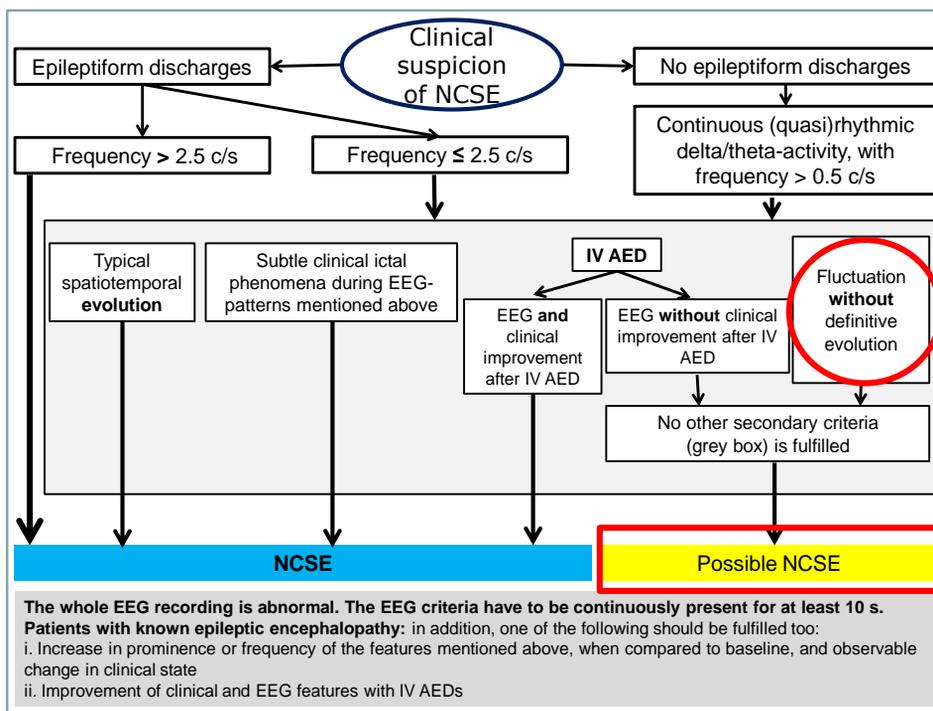
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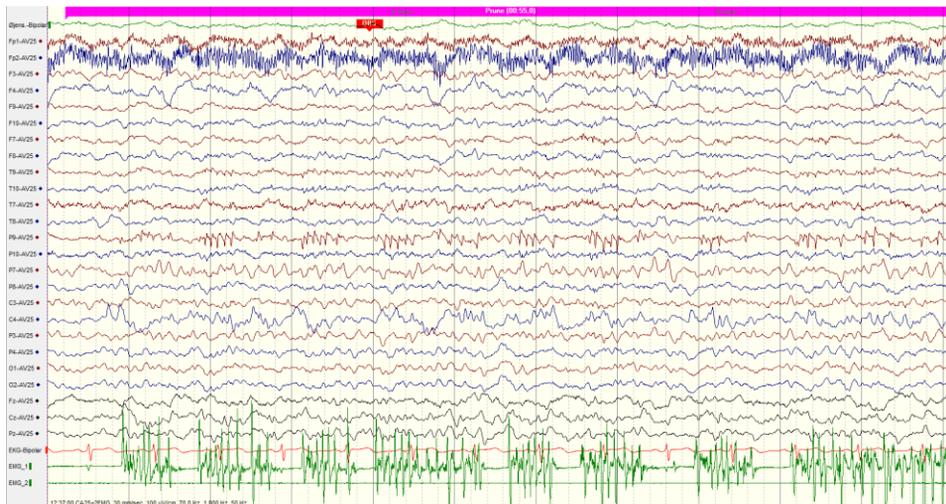
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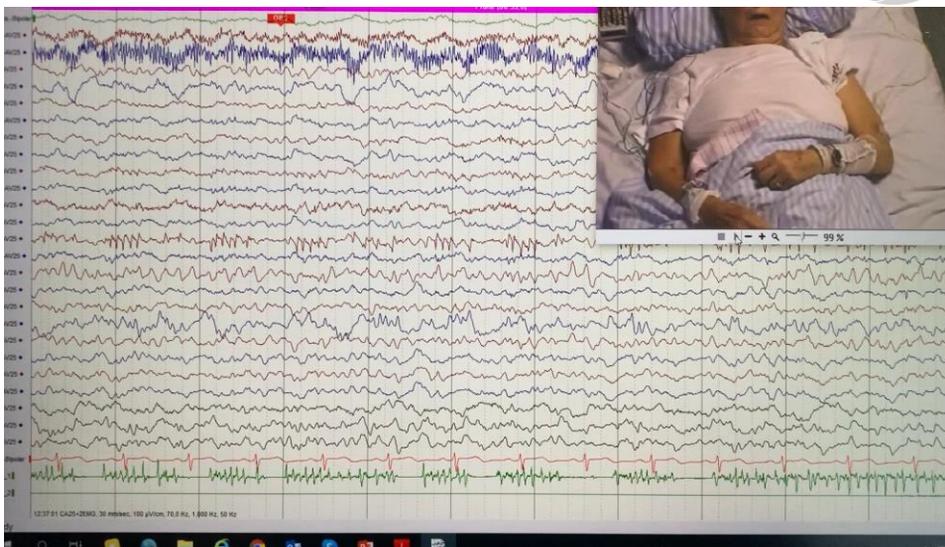
## Case 2

- 78-yo female
- 2 years prior to admission: ischemic stroke (right MCA), palsy on the left side.
- One day prior to admission: agitated → LOC → Periods of 30-90 seconds with discrete jerks in the left upper arm
- CT: no new lesion

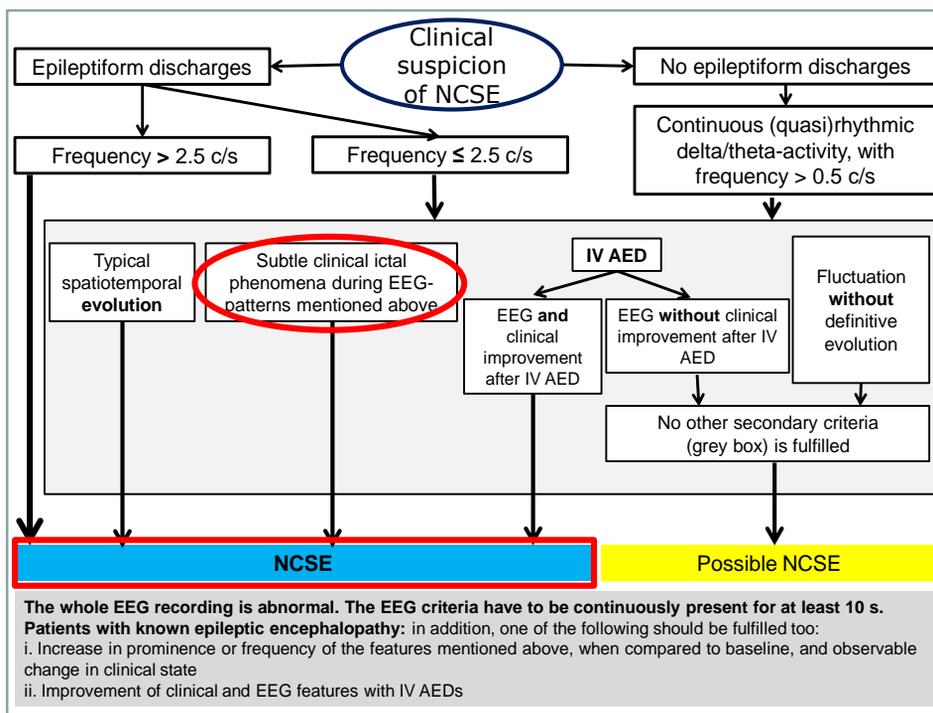
Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



### Case 3

- 67-yo male
- Cardiac arrest
- Three days after return of spontaneous circulation

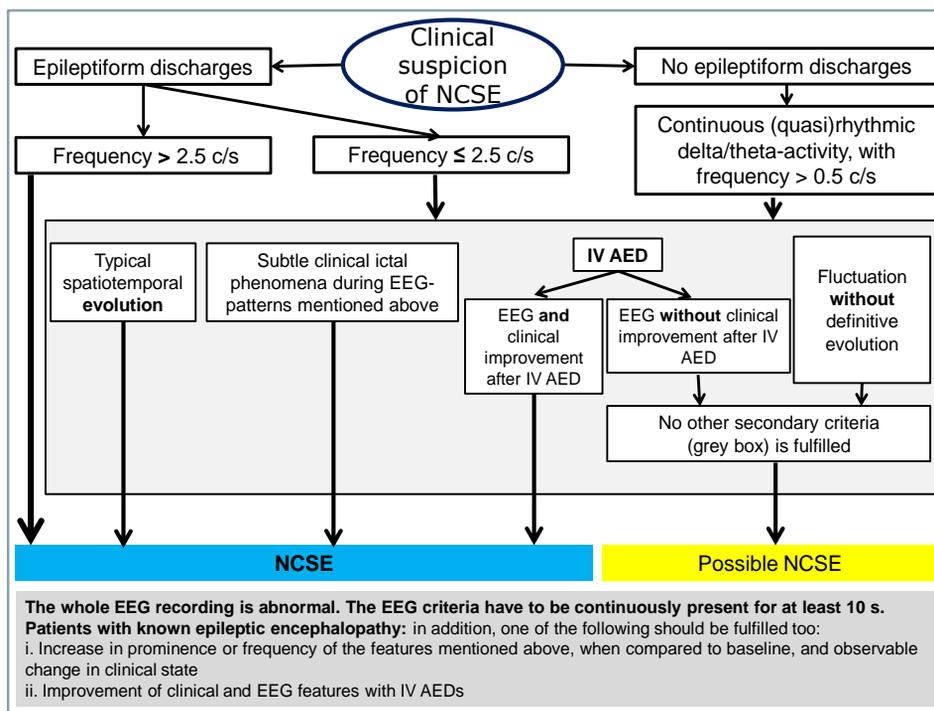
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Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



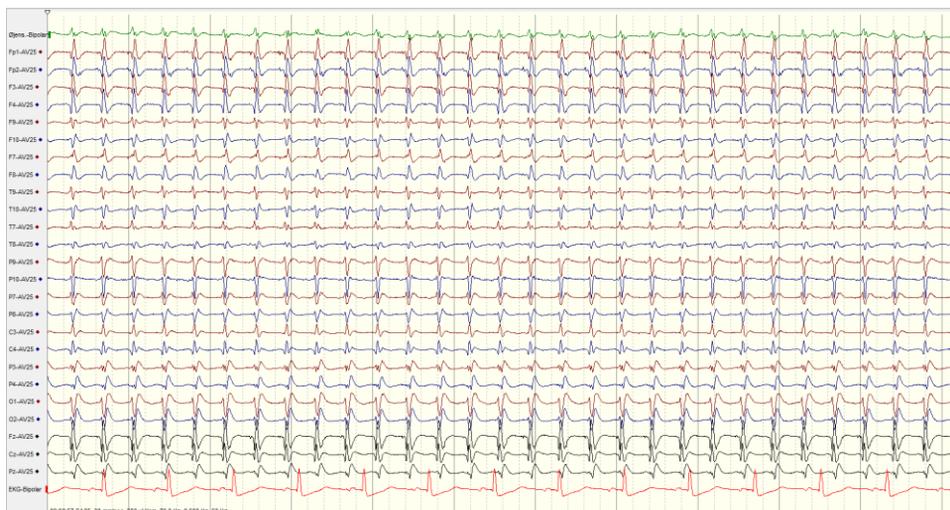
Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



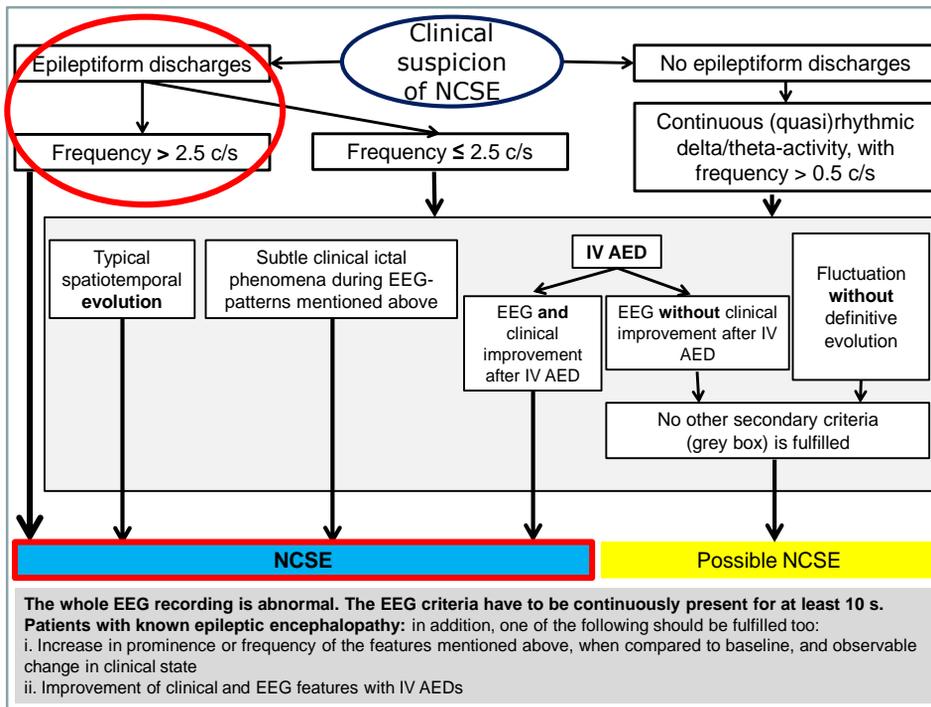
### Case 4

- 71-yo male
- Cardiac arrest
- Three days after return of spontaneous circulation
- GCS=8; Periods with discrete jerks

Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

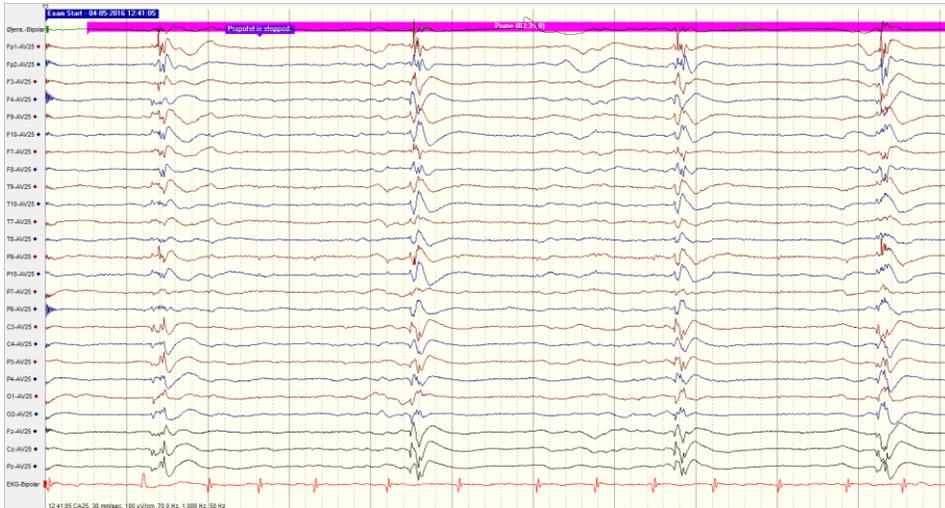


Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk

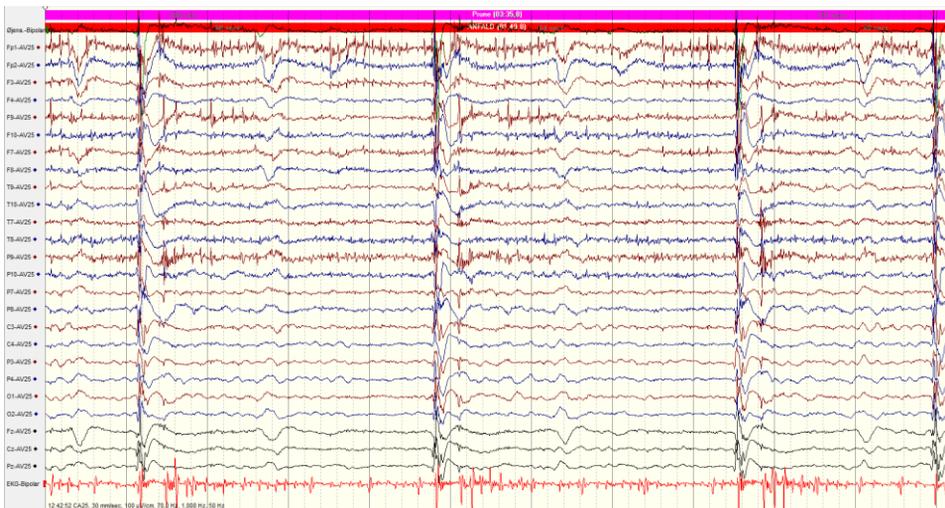


### Case 5

- 82-yo female
- Cardiac arrest
- Three days after return of spontaneous circulation
- Myoclonic jerks
- Propofol: jerks stopped



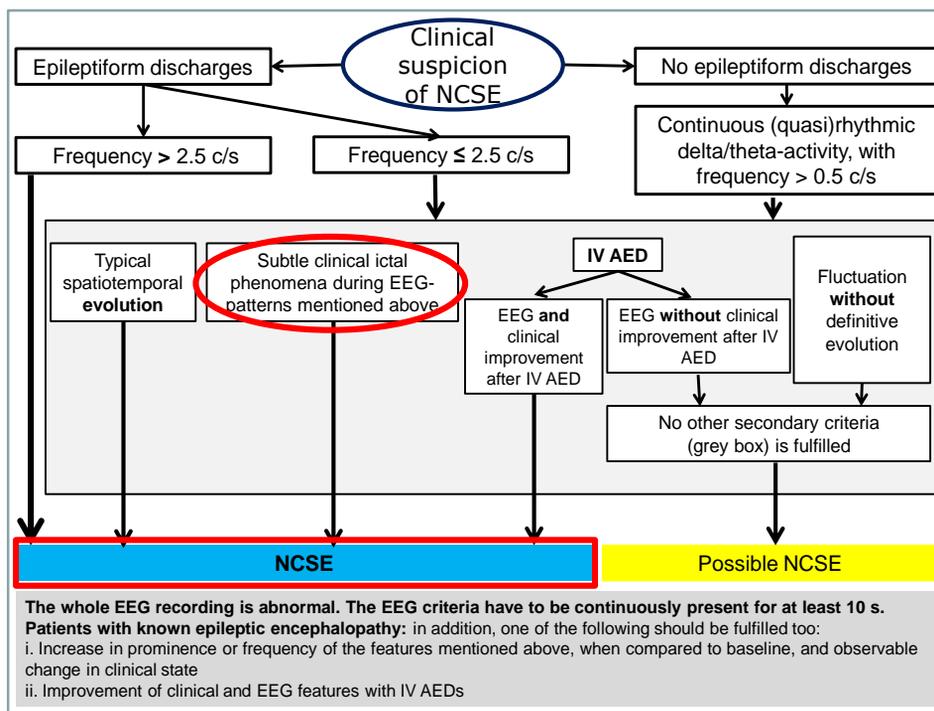
Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk



Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk





Sandor.Beniczky@aarhus.rm.dk