



Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale





To the topic **BRAIN FUNCTIONAL MATURATION** we answer **EEG-HR!** Why ?

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A transient brain organization

- Dual innervation with the cortical plate and subplate
- Before 26 wGA
 - Very immature cortical plate
 - A well-developed subplate
 - Synapses between the neurones of the subplate and the quiescent thalamic afferents
- 28 wGA : a crucial moment in brain maturation
 - → relocation of thalamic afferents into the immature cortical plate
- Involution of the subplate from 28 wGA

At the 3rd trimester of gestation, transition between

- → Very early endogenous genetically encoded activities
- → And modulation of cortical activities by sensory experience



Kostović et al. 2010

The subplate: a key structure

- Involvement in the development and plasticity of the cortical plate
- Establishment and functional maturation of thalamocortical connections
- Feedback projections to the thalamus
- The activity-dependent development of cortical columns
- Radial neural migration
- In vitro, active role of the subplate in the genesis of spontaneous cortical activities in the auditory system Zhao et al., 2009



Wallois et al. 2021

EEG of the premature newborn



Wallois et al. 2021

Eeg discont



Unanswered questions...

- Role of these physiological neurobiomarkers?
- Genetically encoded? Modulated by sensory experience?
- Location of the generators/oscillators of these biomarkers?
- Role of these activities in the functional maturation?
- How pathological processes occurring in- or ex-utero can impact these activities and longterm consequences for the neurodevelopmental outcome?

→ Study in EEGHR! !

> Hum Brain Mapp. 2017 May;38(5):2345-2358. doi: 10.1002/hbm.23521. Epub 2017 Jan 23.

Plasticity of neonatal neuronal networks in very premature infants: Source localization of temporal theta activity, the first endogenous neural biomarker, in temporoparietal areas

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TTA-SW = Temporal theta activities in coalescence with a slow wave

TTA-SW



- 24-32 wGA (max 28-30 wGA)
- Bursts of high amplitude (20-300 µV) theta activities (4-7,5 Hz)
- In coalescence with a positive SW
- Seen during active periods
- Favorable neurological prognosis
- Generator, functionality and location remain unknown
- ➔ TTA-SW: Acquired or innate early biomarker?

EEG standard HR à 26 sAC – montages bipolaire et référentiel – amplitude 15 uv/mm pages de 20 s – bande passante 0,5-40 Hz



→ HD-EEG of 14 healthy premature newborns recorded at 26-31 sAC



Descriptive analysis

- Very focal activities under 2 to 7 electrodes
- On the temporal (T7, T8) and centroparietal (CP5, CP6) electrodes
- More diffuse at 26 than at 31 wGA but located in the same regions
- Same characteristics of the slow waves



Source location on grand averaging

- Location in the posterior superior temporal sulcus
- No superficial but deep location
- Deeper at 26-29 wGA (14.7 vs 9.5 mm)
- Similar location of the slow wave



Localisation MUSIC des activités thêta droites Routier et al. 2017

TTA-SW: Activity dependent on sensorial experience?

- 30 EEG of premature infants between 26-31 wGA
- Auditory clicks
- No modulation or induction of TTA SW by auditory stimuli
- ➔ An endogenous genetically determined activity



Effect of click stimuli on the occurrence of TTA-SW. Interpolation of the frequency of TTA-SW occurrence within 0.5 s intervals for each subject and the grand average across subjects

Discussion

- Functional TTA-SW generators from 24 wGA
 - Before the thalamic afferents reach the immature cortical plate
 - Before the sensory experience

The early developmental biomarker of the temporal region

Origin of TTA-SW?

In the subplate?

- Significant and early synaptic activities
- Receives thalamic afferents
- Endogenous spontaneous activity (bursts of discontinuous activity) from 20-21 wAG in vitro in the absence of sensory experience

Moore et al. 2011

- Migration of TTA-SW correlated with the involution of the subplate
- Where does the activity recorded on the surface come from?
 - Closed fields linked to neuronal orientation so difficult to record
 - Hypothesis
 - Relay of the subplate for the thalamic informations to the cortical plate
 - Activation of dendrites of migrating pyramidal cells





Role of TTA-SW

- Generator active before the installation of the auditory / language / communication functionalities
- Probable role of functional guidance, neuronal migration, growth, differentiation ... genetically determined
 Ayoub et al 2009, Moore et al 2009, 2011
- Functionality similar to that of the Kölliker's organ, a transient cochlear organ, responsible for endogenous activity essential for the establishment of the functionality of the inner ear

Zhao et al 2009, Kilb et al 2011, Trischt et al 2011



Moyennage et localisation du dipôle des activités thêta gauches Brain Topography https://doi.org/10.1007/s10548-019-00713-z

ORIGINAL PAPER

Preterm Modulation of Connectivity by Endogenous Generators: The Theta Temporal Activities in Coalescence with Slow Waves

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As early as 28 wGA, the premature brain is able to discriminate phonemes and voices in specific areas using neural strategies as habituation and mismatch

→ a precocious sophisticated organization of perysylvian areas

Mahmoudzadeh et al. 2013

➔ Investigate the influence of TTA-SW on the functional connectivity pattern of the early brain

→ 64-electrods HD-EEG of 14 healthy preterm infant recorded at 29-32 wGA

→ Study of the functional connectity segmenting the 6 sec around TTA-SW (period of 2 sec)

- Significant increase of the functional connectivity during TTA-SW
- Left TTA-SW
 - Significantly increases the functional connectivity between left frontal, temporal and parietal areas
- Right TTA-SW
 - A significant increase of FC



Fig. 3 Functional connectivity pattern during TTA-SW. Comparison of functional connectivity during TTA-SW (DT) and before TTA-SW (BF) in the theta band (4–8 Hz) revealed **a** significant functional connectivity (p=0.0001) in the left temporal region of left TTA-SW

TTA-SW

- Influence on the functional organization of the preterm brain network
- Participate to the prewiring or functional organization of the perisylvian network involved in language and social interactions before the connection to the cortical plate

➔ TTA-SW conveys functional messages or neural signals to another targets (optimization and refinement of cortical connections)

- A repetitive endogenous input involved in the tuning of the perisylvian network
- Relay from a rich local organization of the neural network to a long-distance connectivity between the areas

The intimate relationship between coalescent generators in very premature human newborn brains: Quantifying the coupling of nested endogenous oscillations

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TTA-SW = activité thêta temporale en coalescence avec une onde lente

TTA-SW



- Important coupling between TTA and SW ?
- Profound functional implications for neural network development?

→ 25 EEG of healthy premature neonates recorded at 24-27 wGA

- Development of a tool of automatic detection for TTA and SW separately
 - Detection techniques adapted from those used to detect sleep oscillations
 - Validation of automatic selections by a clinical neurophysiologist
- Time-frequency analysis to look for a power modulation during TTA and SW
- Phase-amplitude coupling = the moment at which TTA appear in the course of the SW

- TTA power (4–7.5 Hz) modulated during the SW
- TTA power
 - ↑ during the descending phase of the SW
 - Peaked during the SW trough (slightly preceding the SW trough)
 - ↓ during the positive slope
 - Disappeared during the SW peak
- A high temporal precision of the TTA power nesting within SW cycles (slightly before the SW trough) for all events



Conclusions TTA-SW



- A deep location in the planum temporale
- A very precise temporal relationship with an orchestration of TTA by SW
- Precise phase amplitude coupling between 2 oscillators (TTA and SW) from 24 wGA
- An early endogenous neurobiomarker composed of 2 oscillators which are able to reinforce the functionnal connectivity of the perisylvian areas
- → Complexity and relative maturity of the initial mechanisms

Hypothesis

- The fined-tune temporal relationship between TTA and SW is a marker of endogenous interactions between the subplate, the cortical plate and thalamic afferents
- TTA-SW paticipates to the early development of the neural circuits corresponding to later processing if sensory information

➔ Preparation of the cortical sensory awareness



- Similar pattern of "_TA-SW" in other regions
 - generic activity preparing the implementation, the awareness of sensoriality?
- A lot of neurodevelopmental disorders in premature infants
 - Sensory motor, cognitive, language disorder, ASD, ADHD....
 - Caused by a precocious disturbed neuronal wiring consistent with a disrupted functional organization

A better predictive evaluation studying the phase amplitude relationship?



WHY THE FRONTAL LOBE?

FST



- Frontal sharp transient (FST) = « encoche frontale »
- Biphasic activities in the prefrontal regions
- Specific strong frontal transient activity 35-43 wGA
- Mostly seen during sleep
- Clinically accepted that the presence of FST at term confers a favorable neurological outcome.
 - The high predictive value of this neurobiomarker was attributed to it in view of its absence in extremely abnormal EEGs
 Arfel et al. 1977, Monod et al. 1960
- FST's functionality? Generator?
- ➔ endogen or senrory-driven transient activities?
- → specific to the development of the frontal cortex?

128 electrods
 HD-EEG of 20
 healthy
 newborn
 borned at
 term

→ 425 selected
 FST



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Unilateral FST



Grand averaging of bilateral FST, amplitude cartography at negative peak and electrodes concerned by it.



Location of grand averaging B-FSTs



Mean location obtained from the average activities per patient



All B-FST dipole obtained from the averaging of each patient with one dipole's colour by patient.

Location in the orbito-frontal cortex? In the olfactory bulbs?

Involvement in olfaction?

- But very early organization of the olfactory system during T2
- No clear and obvious link between breathing and the occurrence of FST

Occurrence around the term

- Very strong activities, "resistant" to pathological mechanisms
- No maturation the FST over time
- Participate in the survival of the child?
- Impact on memorizing and learning smells ?



ACTIVITIES NOT SEEN IN LD-EEG OFFERED BY HD-EEG

Richness of HD-EEG...













CONCLUSIONS

The new world of HD-EEG

- Closed future of profound modifications in interpretation of EEG
- Development of new criteria that could better predict the neurodevelopmental outcome (phase coupling, connectivity etc ...)
- Use of artificial intelligence because of the richness of HD-EEG activities
- The better the comprehension of the physiological mechanisms, the better the clinical and predictive evaluation

Still so much to discover ...

Thank you!