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# Polysomnographic findings and clinical correlates in Huntington disease. A cross-sectional cohort study.



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

Carla Piano<sup>1,2</sup>, MD; Anna Losurdo<sup>3</sup>, MD; Giacomo Della Marca<sup>3</sup>, MD, PhD; Marcella Solito<sup>1</sup>, Giovanna Calandra-Buonaura<sup>2</sup>, MD, PhD; Federica Provini<sup>2</sup>, MD, PhD; Anna Rita Bentivoglio<sup>1</sup>, MD, PhD; Pietro Cortelli<sup>2</sup>, MD.

<sup>1</sup> Center for Parkinson Disease and Extrapiramidal Disorders, Movement Disorders Unit, Institute of Neurology, Catholic University, Rome, Italy

<sup>2</sup> IRCCS Istituto delle Scienze Neurologiche di Bologna, Bologna, Italy; Department of Biomedical and NeuroMotor Sciences (DIBINEM), Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

<sup>3</sup> Sleep Disorders Unit; Institute of Neurology, Rome, Italy

## Studies of sleep disorders in HD

Emser et al. 1988	PSG	Decreased sleep density
Wiegand et al. 1991	PSG	Disturbed sleep, increased spindles
Taylor and Bramble 1997	Questionnaires	Sleep problems in 87.8%
Hurelbrink et al. 2004	Actigraphy	Increased motor activity in sleep
Arnulf et al. 2008	V-PSG	Insomnia, PLM, RBD
Videnovic et al. 2009	Questionnaires	Disturbed sleep, somnolence
Cuturic et al. 2009	PSG	Prolonged sleep latency, no SDB
Goodman et al. 2010	PSG, Actigraphy	Disordered sleep (100%)
Neutel et al. 2015	V-PSG	Nocturnal 'agitation'
Lazar et al. 2015	PSG	Fragmented sleep (pre-manifest HD)

**Study design:** single center, cross-sectional, cohort, controlled study



## Aims of the study

- ✓ Evaluate the presence of subjective and objective sleep disorders
- ✓ Evaluate their impact on motor, cognitive and psychological performances
- ✓ Evaluate their impact on quality of life
- ✓ Propose therapeutical strategies

## Methods

- Clinical evaluation (UHDMS, CAG repeat, duration of disease)
- Subjective sleep evaluation (PSQI, ESS, HD-Q, Bologna-Q, Berlin, RBD-Q, RLS)
- Objective sleep evaluation (polysomnography)
  - Sleep structure
  - Sleep-related motor pattern
  - Sleep-related respiratory pattern
  - Sleep EEG

## Results - Subjective sleep evaluation

### Sleep quality

PSQI > 5 (poor sleep quality): 18 patients (60%)  
HD-Q > 3 (poor sleep quality): 10 patients (33%)

### Somnolence:

ESS > 9 (daytime sleepiness): 6 patients (20%)  
Bologna Q (high risk): 7 patients (23%)

### SDB (Berlin Q, high risk):

8 patients (27%)

### RLS (IRLSS questionnaire):

2 patients (6%)

### RBD (RBD questionnaire):

2 patients (6%)

## Patients and Controls

30 HD patients, 30 healthy controls matched for age and sex  
Patients enrolled in the Movement Disorder Center, UCSC, Rome, Italy  
Controls enrolled in the Sleep Disorder Center, UCSC, Rome, Italy  
Enrollment period: Jan-to-June 2014

		HD patients		Total	Controls		Total
		Mean	SD		Mean	SD	
Clinic and demographic data	Age	57,3	12,2		56,5	11,8	
	Gender			14M, 16F			14M, 16F
	Neck	35,9	3,7		36,3	3,6	
	BMI	21,9	4,0		26,2	8,5	
	Disease duration	9,4	4,4				
	UHDMS	55,5	23,4				
	CAG repeats	44,3	4,0				

## Results - Objective sleep evaluation (polysomnography)

**SDB:** Only 2 patients (6%) presented PSG evidence of OSA, mild in 1 case (same prevalence as in general elderly population)

**RBD:** No patient presented episodes of RBD, neither evidence of REM sleep Without Atonia (including the 2 patients with positive RBD-Q scores)

### Motor activity:

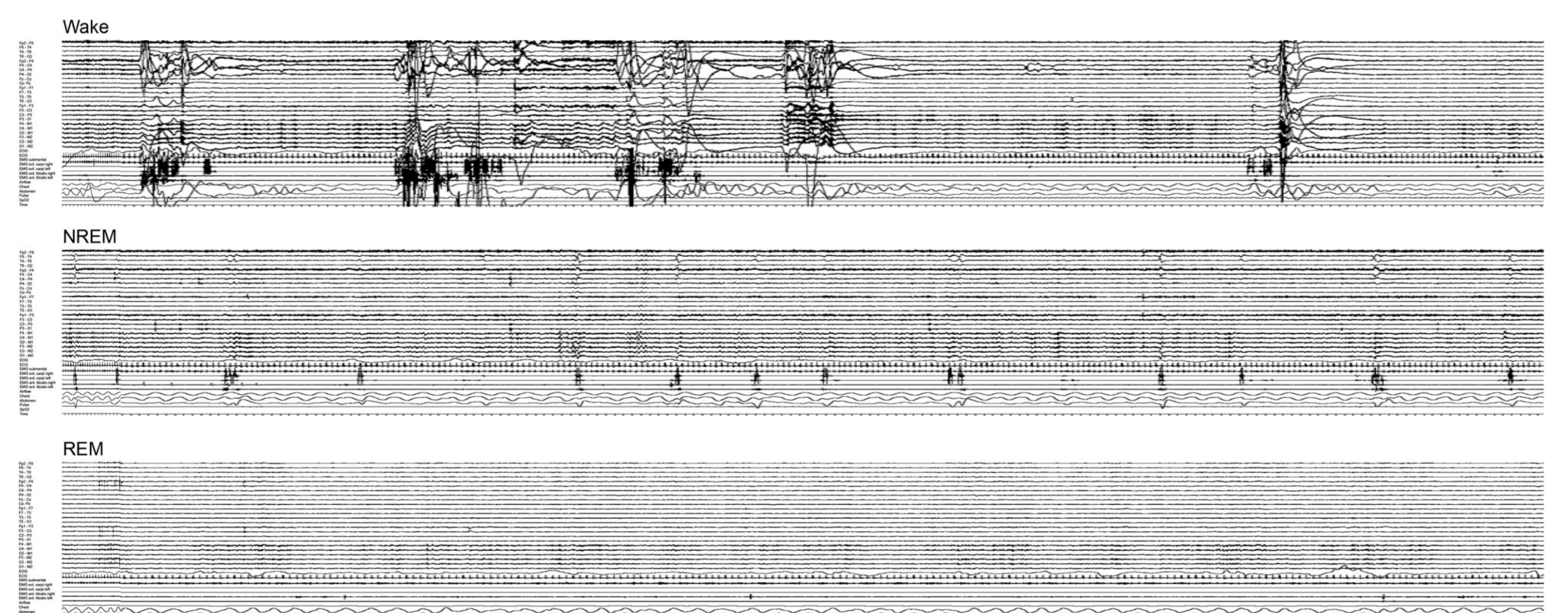
HD patients presented increased motor activity during wake and sleep. PLM were observed in all patients, both during pre-sleep wake and sleep. Both upper and lower limbs PLM persisted during all sleep stages, but were consistently reduced during REM.

			Huntington		Controls		Mann-Whitney	
			Mean	DS	Mean	DS	U-test	p
Respiratory results	Central	Apneas	0,5	1,9	0,7	1,3	621,0	0,004
		Hypopneas	0,3	0,7	0,1	0,3	414,0	0,494
	Mixed	Apneas	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,3	540,5	0,024
		Hypopneas	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	465,0	0,317
	Obstructive	Apneas	0,5	1,3	1,0	1,6	605,0	0,012
		Hypopneas	1,1	4,7	1,3	1,7	622,5	0,006
	Oxygen Desaturation Index	Total sleep	3,3	3,9	3,3	2,0	531,0	0,231
		NREM	3,0	3,6	2,7	1,8	535,5	0,206
		REM	5,8	9,6	5,3	3,3	574,5	0,063

			Huntington		Controls		Mann-Whitney	
			Mean	DS	Mean	DS	U-test	p
PLM	Lower limbs	Wake	46,0	135,0	0,5	1,0	46,5	<0,001
		Sleep	17,6	19,5	0,5	1,4	0,0	<0,001
		NREM	17,9	19,2	0,2	0,3	2,0	<0,001
	REM	15,1	23,8	0,9	2,2	284,0	0,010	
	Upper limbs	Wake	68,1	188,6				
		Sleep	20,9	27,6				
NREM		21,5	27,6					
REM	15,7	26,7						

## Conclusions

Sleep in HD is characterized by:  
Poor sleep quality (more objective than subjective)  
Sleep fragmentation  
No evidence of EDS  
No evidence of SDB  
No evidence of RBD  
No evidence of RLS  
Increased motor activity, prevalently in NREM, with increased PLMS



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