

Treatments for patients with disorders of consciousness

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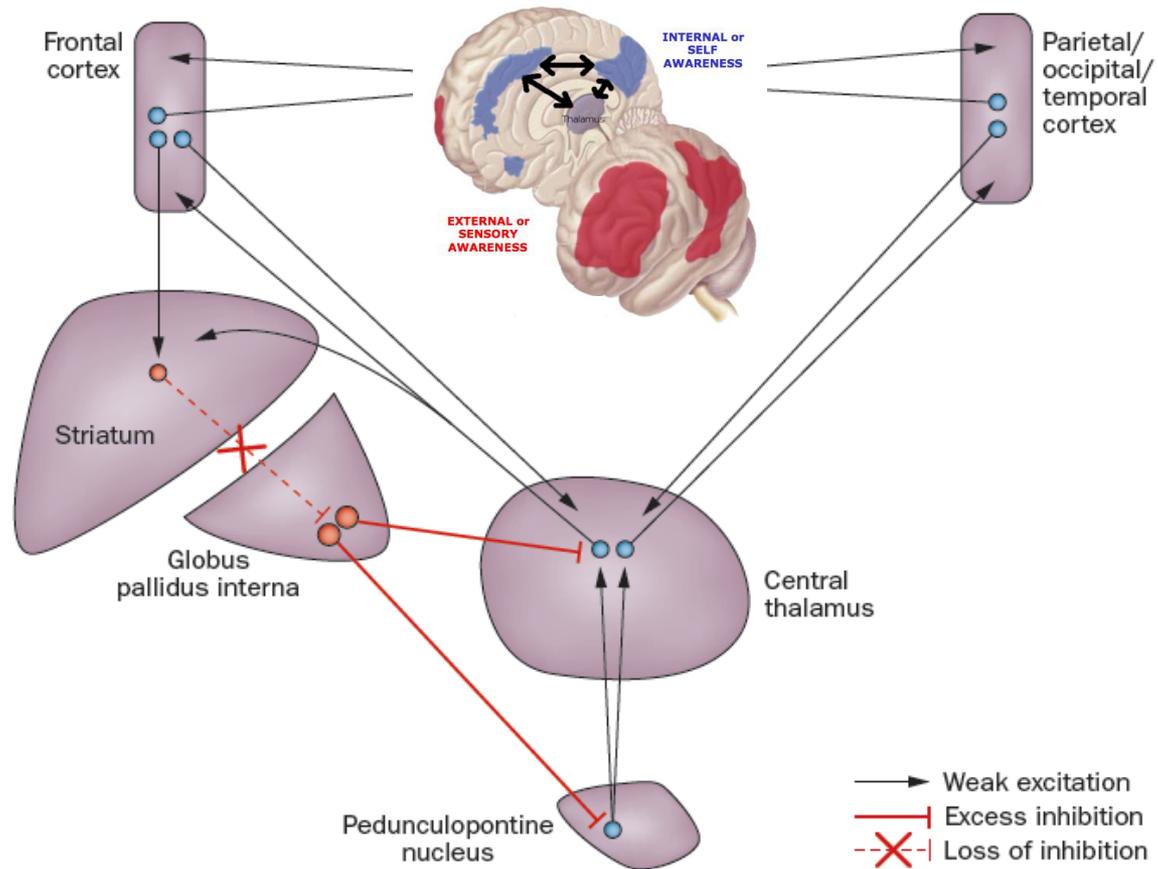
ASSC Paris, July 7, 2015



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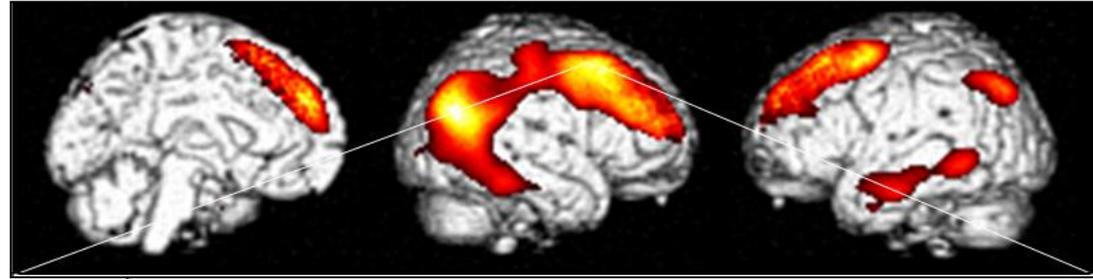
Introduction

Mesocircuit fronto-parietal model

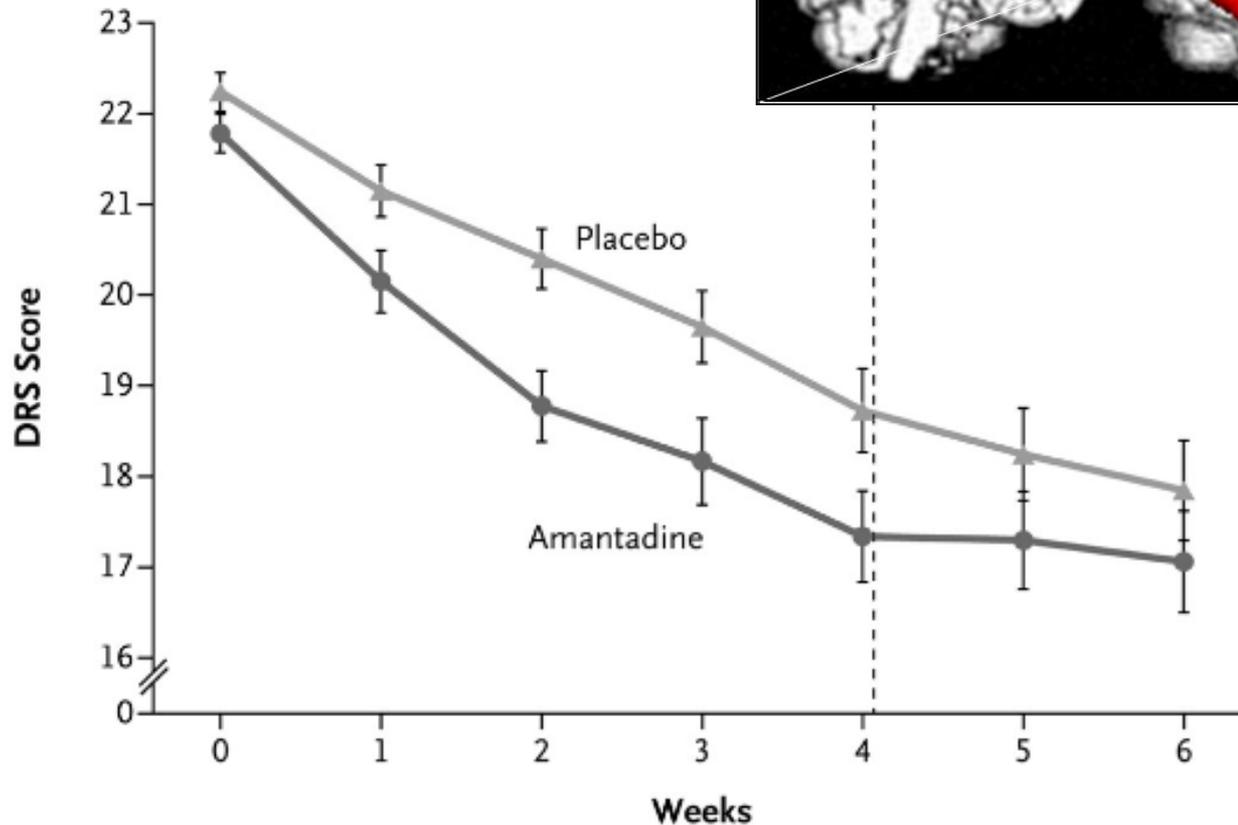


Amantadine

Dopaminergic agent
(Parkinson)



Schnakers et al, *JNNP*, 2008



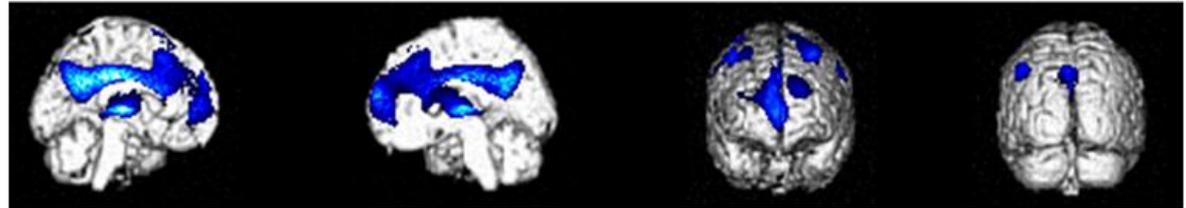
n=184

Zolpidem

Short-acting nonbenzodiazepine GABA-A agonist hypnotic

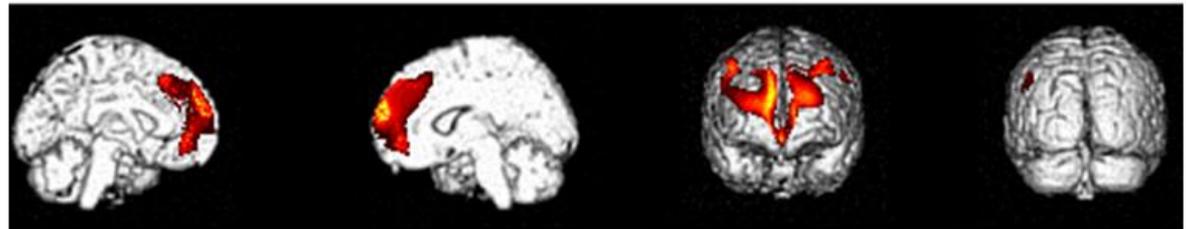
1/15 responders
= 6.7%

Whyte & Meyers, 2009



4/84 responders
= 5%

Whyte et al, 2014



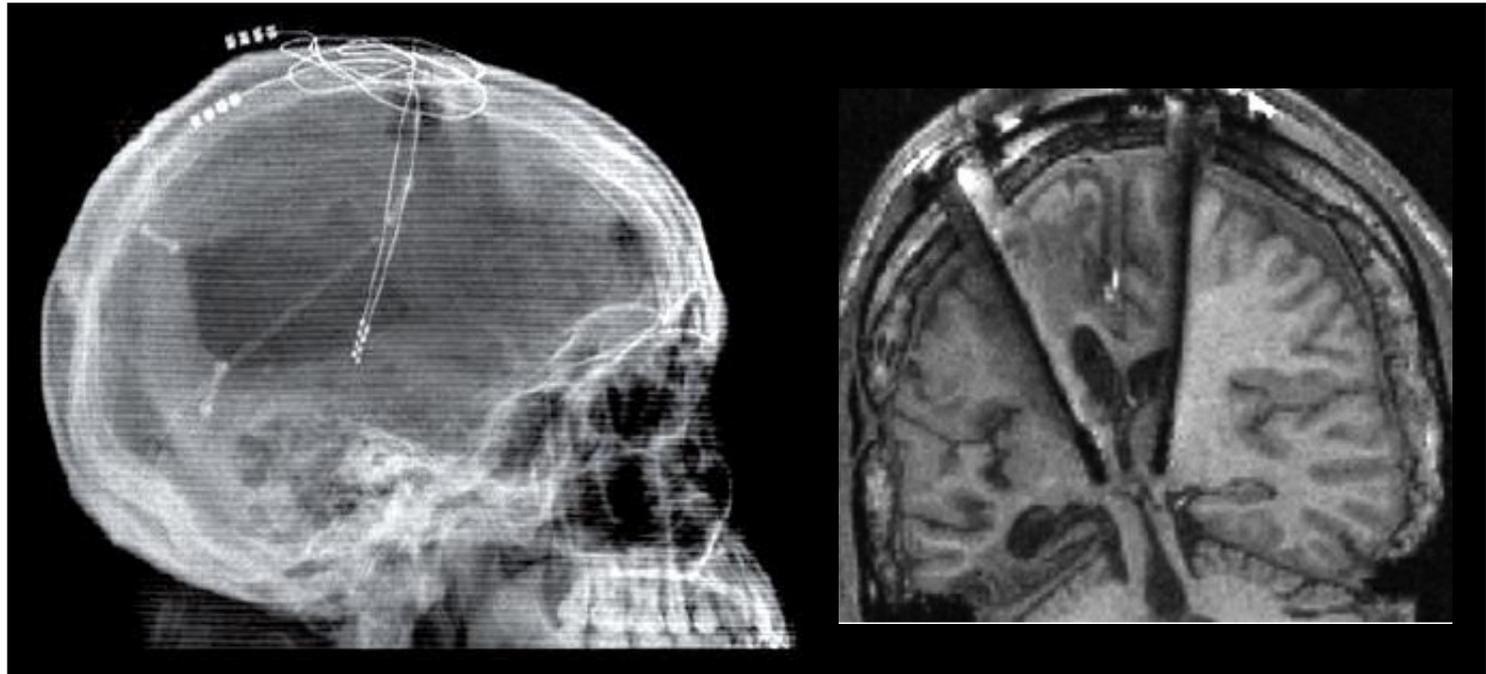
4/60 responders
= 6.7% no change of diagnosis

Thonnard & Gosseries et al, 2014

N=3

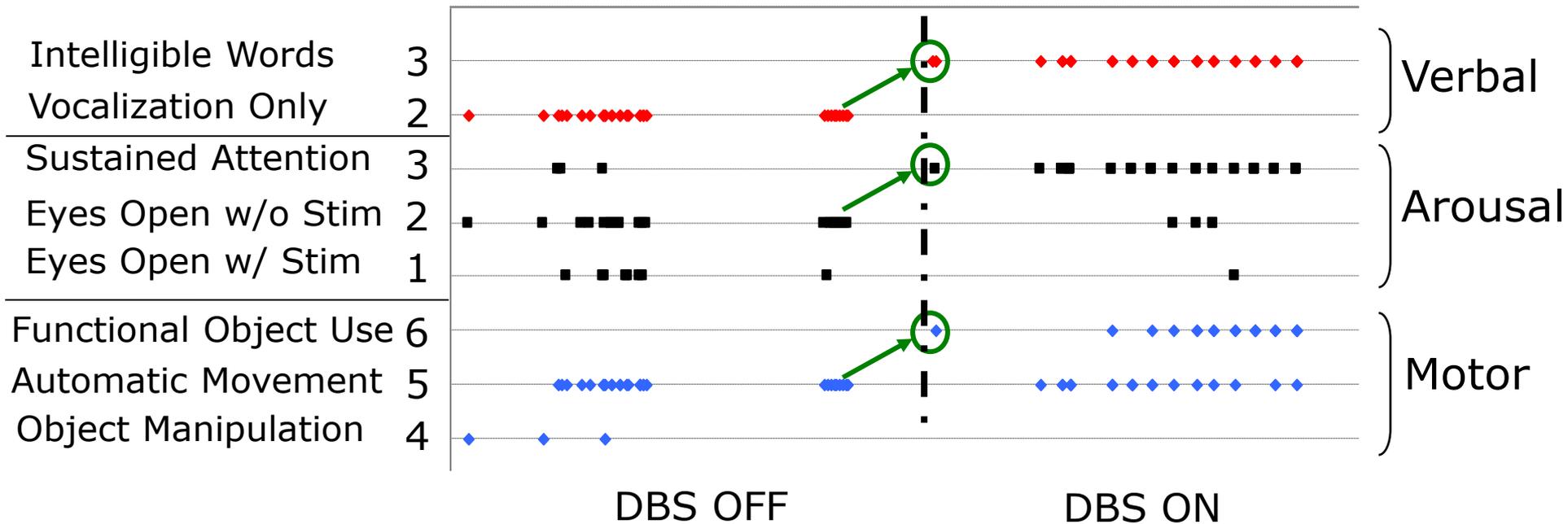
Deep brain stimulation

Intralaminar nuclei stimulation
induces “recovery” from
minimally responsive state



Deep brain stimulation

Clinical improvement



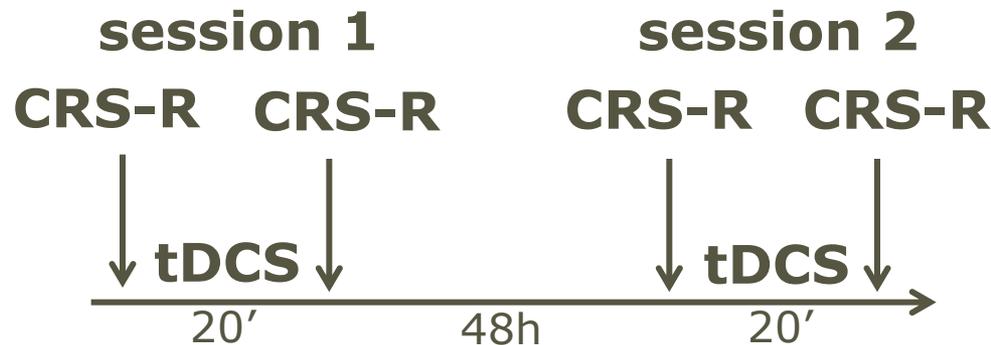
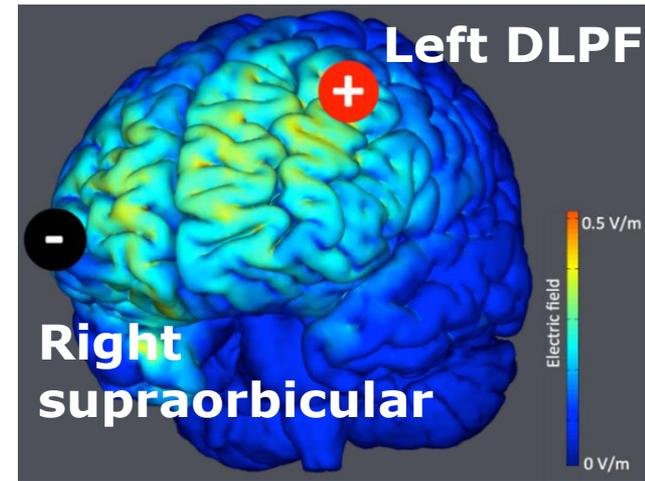
Why tDCS?

Stimulation	Population	Effects	Authors
Motor cortex	Healthy subjects	Dexterity	Boggio et al. Neurosci Lett, 2006
	Hemiplegic patients	Dexterity and strength	Hummel et al. Lancet, 2006
	Spastic patients	Spasticity & ADL (activity of daily life)	Wu et al., Arch Phys Med Rehabil 2012
Prefrontal cortex	Healthy subjects	Memory	Marshall et al. J Neurosci, 2004
	Alzheimer's patients	Memory	Ferrucci et al. Neurology, 2008
	Stroke patients	Attention	Jo et al. Am J Phys Med Rehabil, 2009
	Aphasic patients	Language	Baker et al. Stroke, 2010

→ Cheap, easy to use & no severe side-effects

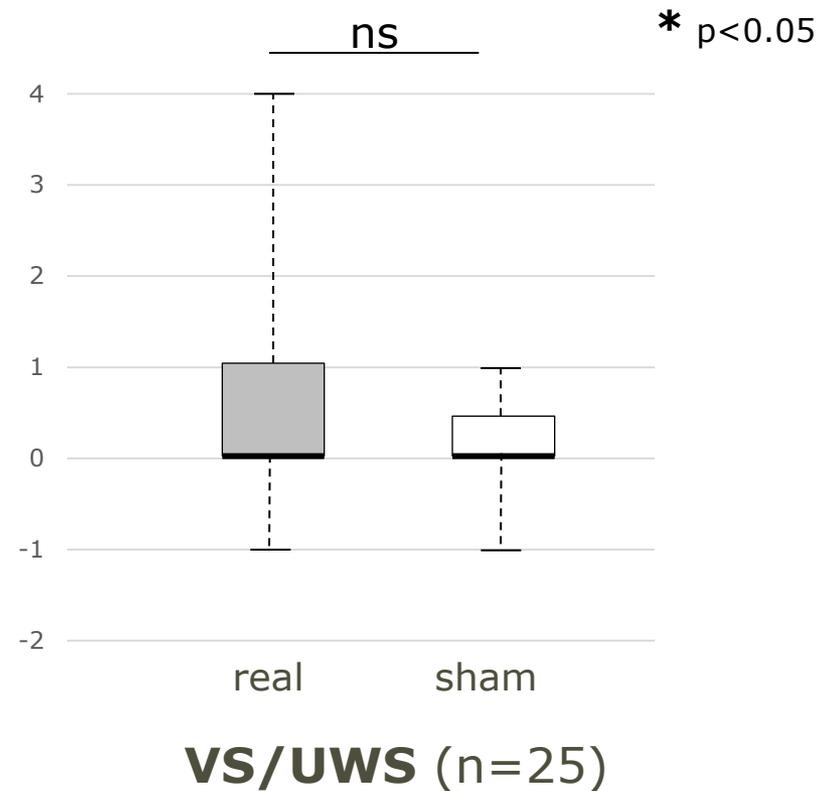
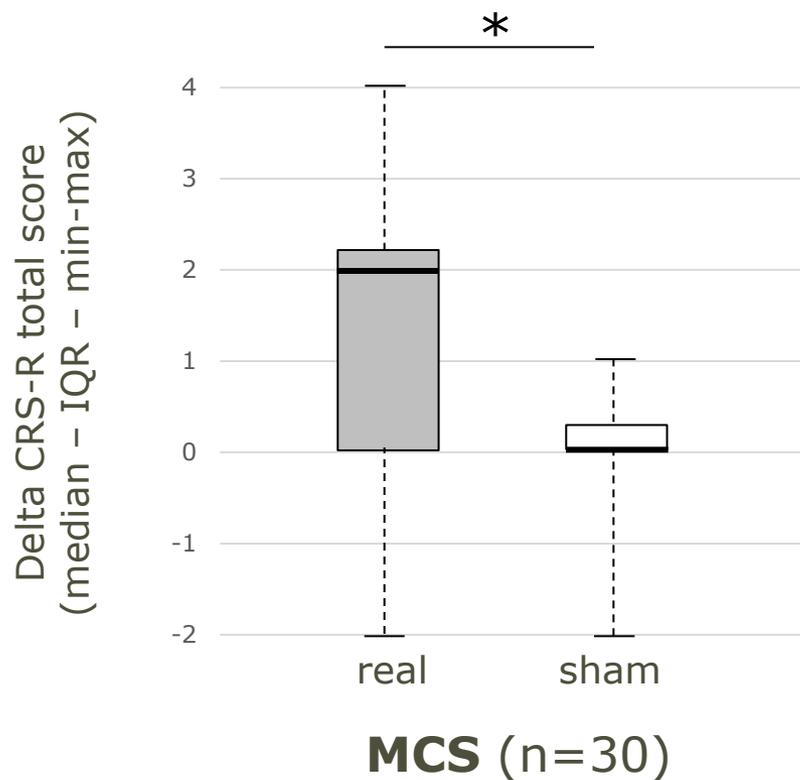
tDCS single session

- Randomized, double blind, sham controlled, cross-over study
- Direct current; 2 mA; 20 min
- 55 patients included
(25 VS/UWS; 30 MCS;
35 chronic; 25 TBI; 43 ± 18 y)



tDCS single session

Treatment effect: delta CRS-R total scores



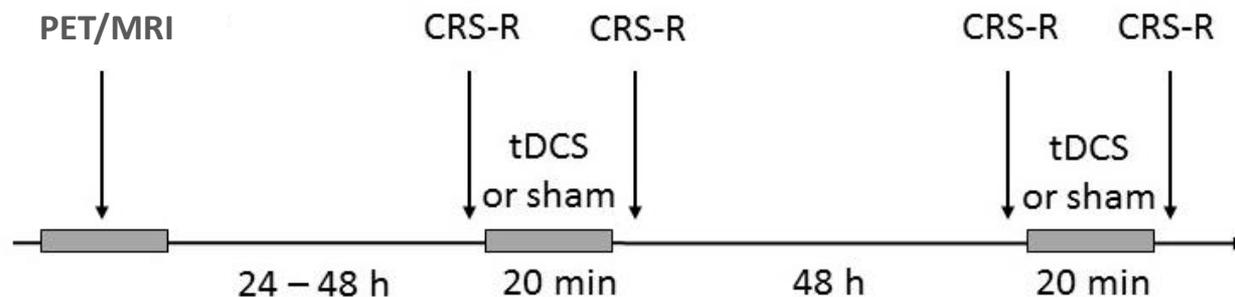
tDCS single session

- **15/55 responders** : sign of consciousness after tDCS and not before tDCS or before and after sham
 - 2 VS/UWS; acute
 - 13 MCS (5 patients >1y post insult)
- Change of diagnosis
 - 3 MCS → EMCS (acute)
 - 2 VS/UWS → MCS (acute)
- No effect of time since injury or etiology
- No side effects

Neural correlates

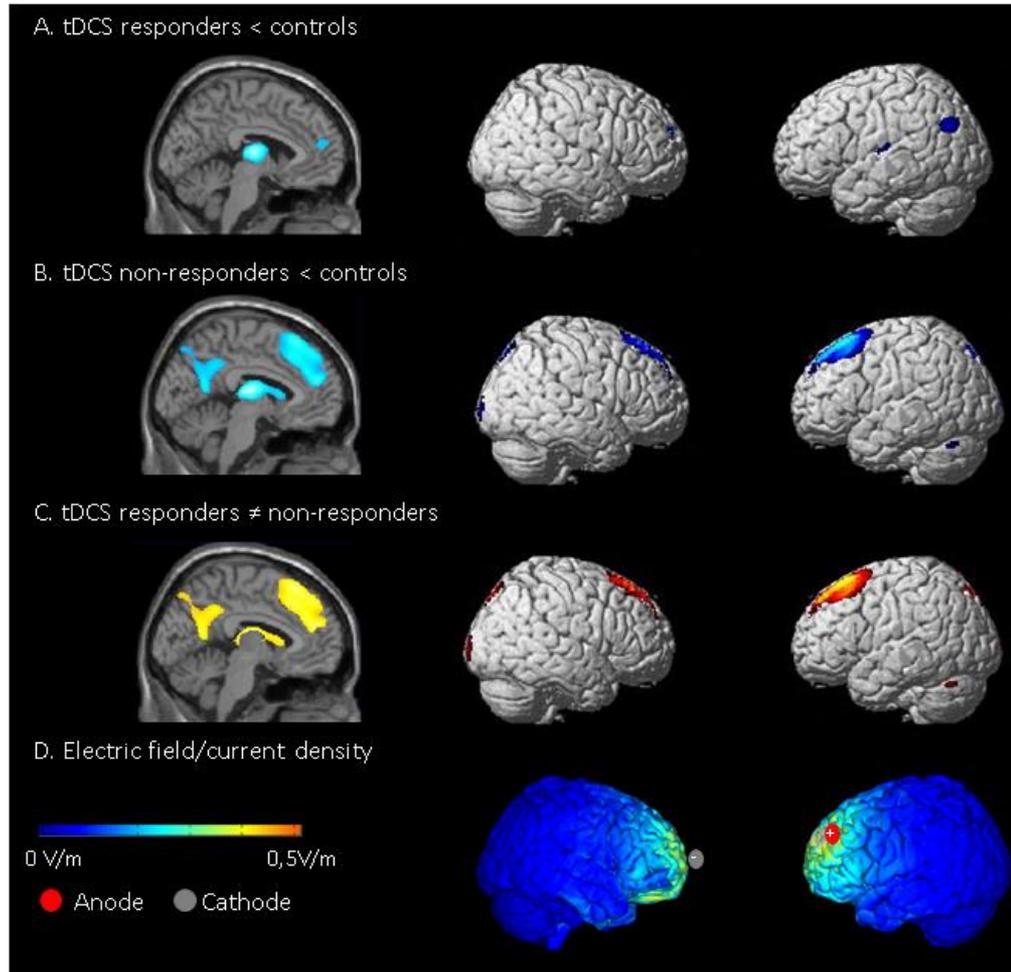
→ Can functional brain activity & grey matter atrophy predict tDCS clinical response?

- Data from study 1 – chronic MCS (n=24)
- FDG-PET – MRI (VBM)
- 8 tDCS responders (4 TBI, mean age: 38 ± 19 y)
- 13 tDCS non-responders (8 TBI, mean age: 36 ± 14 y)



Neural correlates

- hypometabolic
- preserved
- $p < 0.05$



PFDL cortex,
precuneus,
thalamus
also more
atrophic in
non-resp.

Repeated stimulations

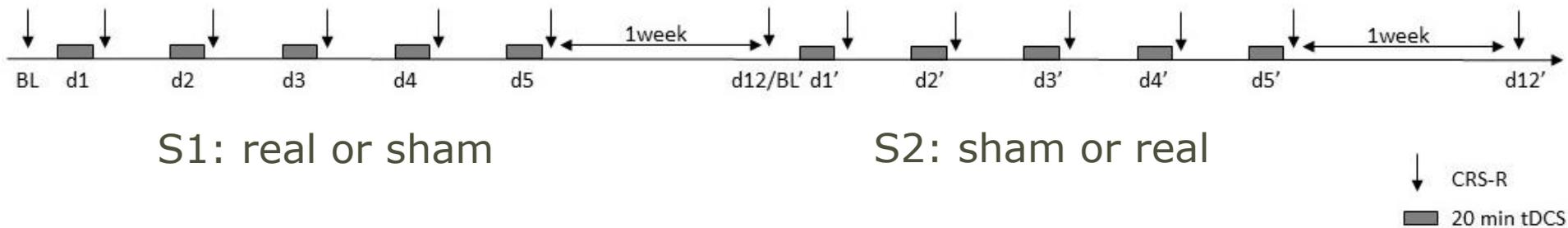
Single stimulation: effects $\pm 60 \text{ min}^1$

→ short-lasting improvements, back to initial state

1. Increase the duration of the effects
2. Increase the number of responders

Randomized sham controlled double blind cross-over

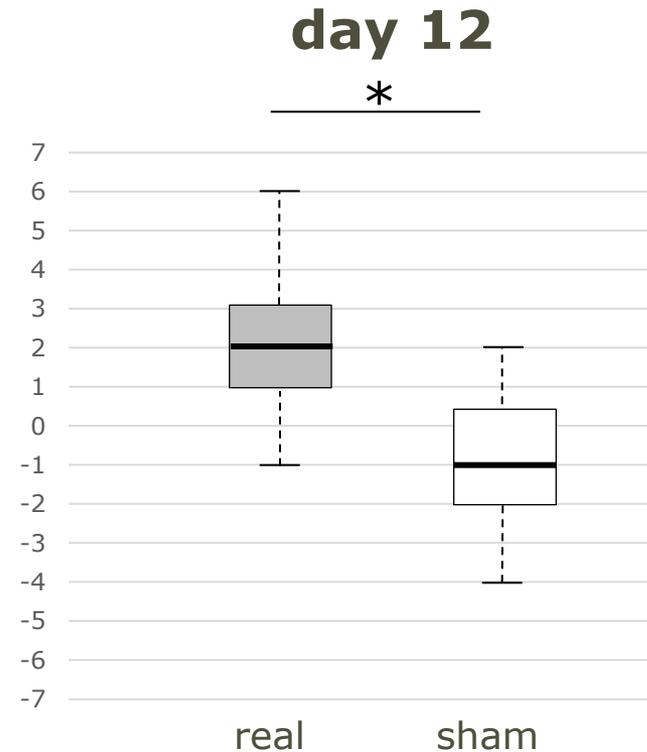
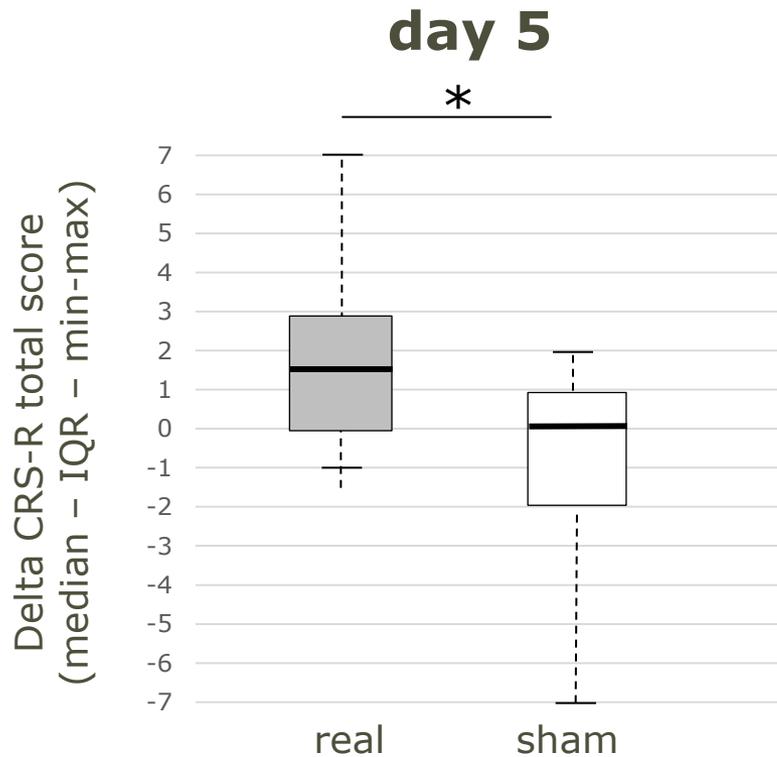
16 patients included in chronic MCS (12TBI; mean age $47 \pm 16\text{y}$)



¹Nitsche *et al.*, 2001
Thibaut *et al.*, submitted

Repeated stimulations

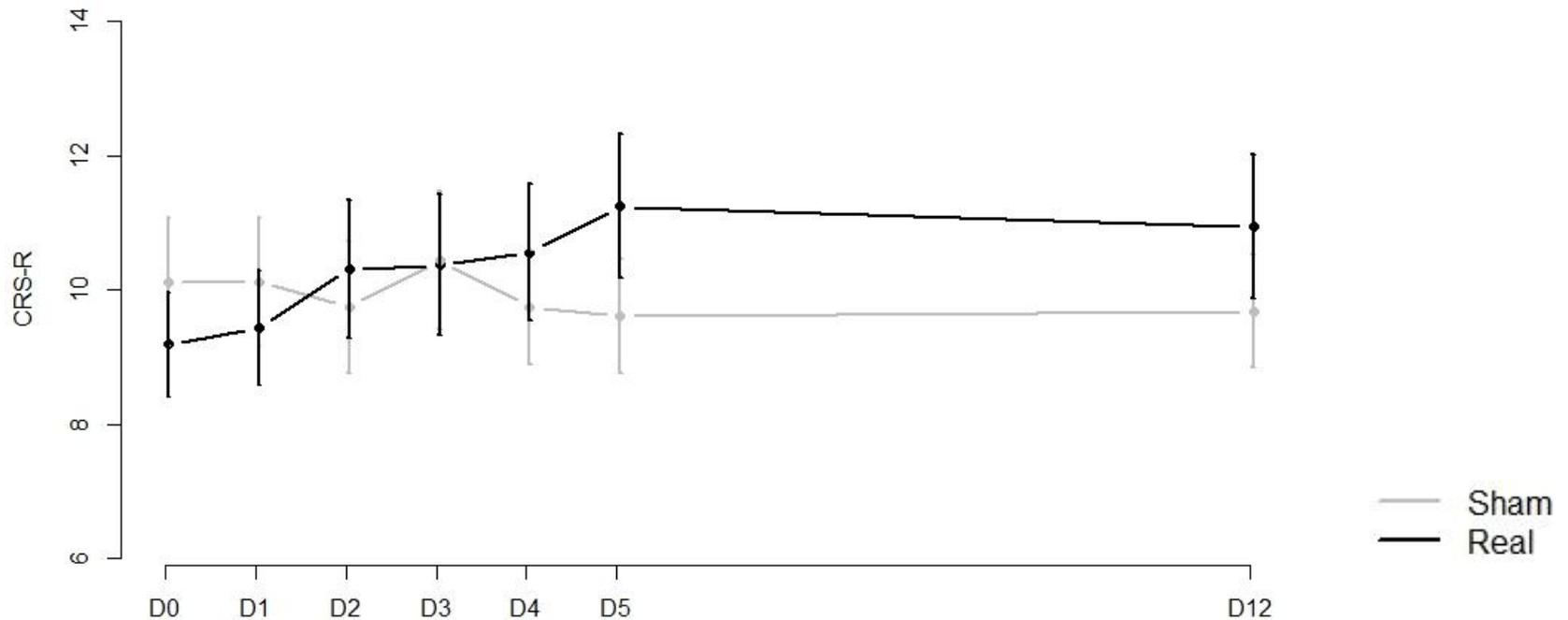
Treatment effect: day5 & day 12 – 53% of responders



* $p < 0.05$

Repeated stimulations

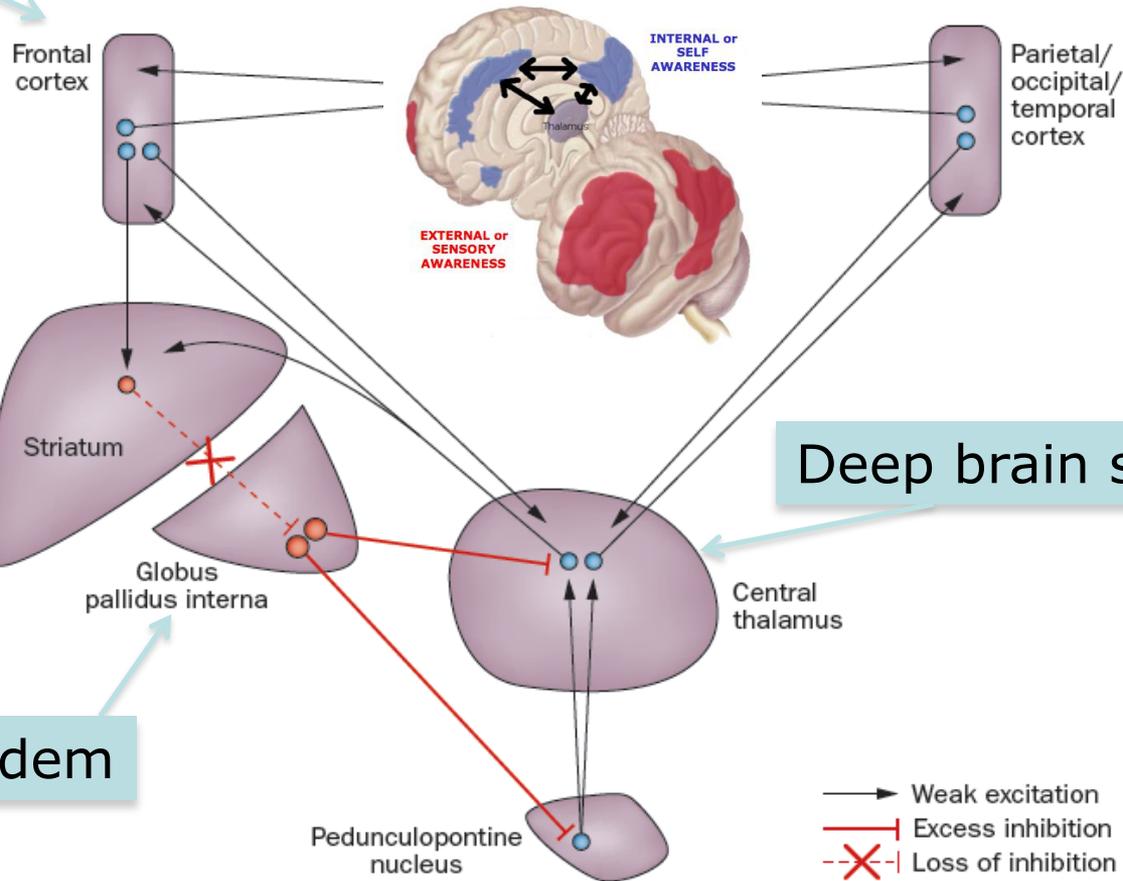
- Longitudinal analysis:
 - Real session: significant + time evolution ($p < 0.001$)
 - Sham session: no evolution across time ($p = 0.64$)



Conclusion

mesocircuit fronto-parietal model

transcranial
Direct
Current
Stimulation



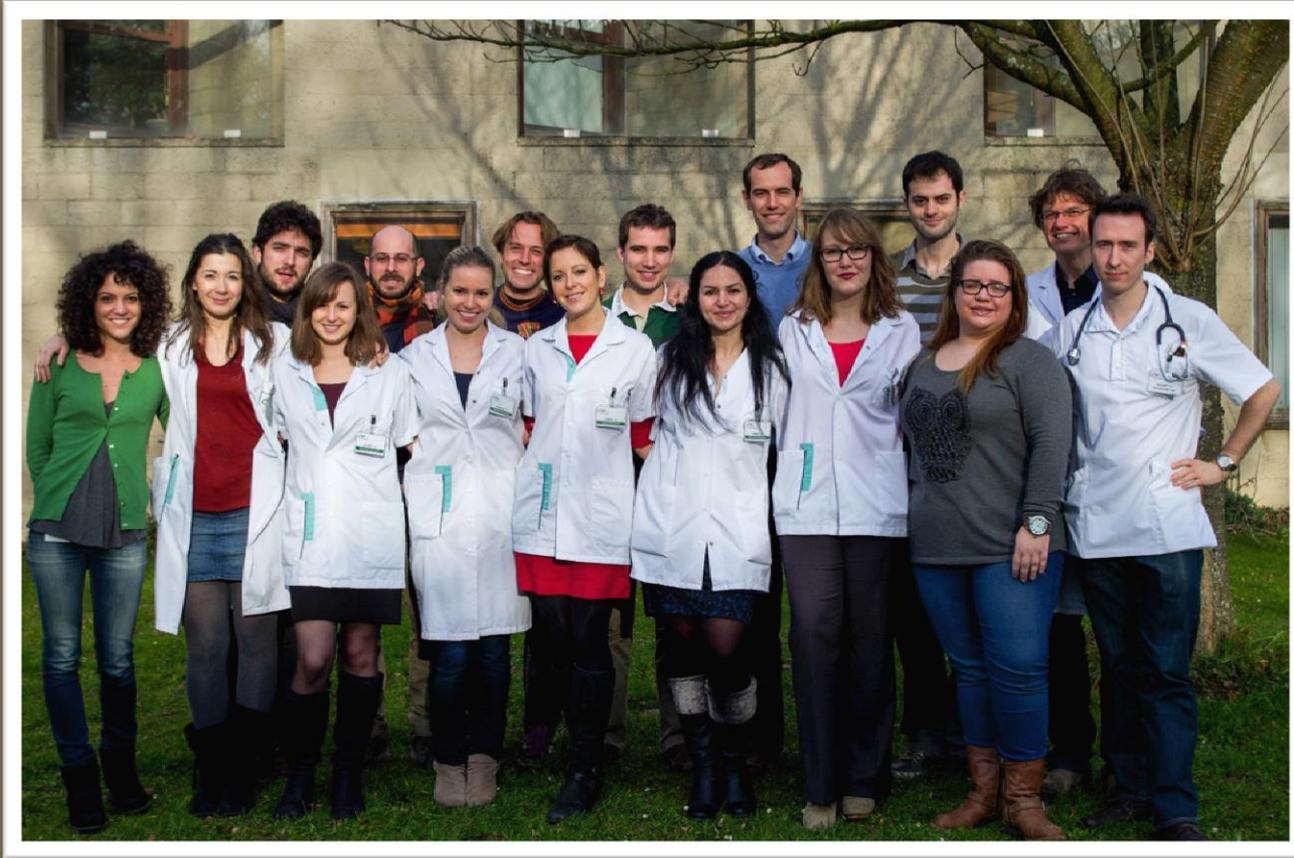
amantadine

Deep brain stimulation

zolpidem

- ▶ Weak excitation
- ┐ Excess inhibition
- - X - - Loss of inhibition

THANK YOU



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