

**Obstructive sleep apnea in  
epilepsy:  
a preliminary Egyptian study**

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# A preliminary Egyptian study

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Epilepsy and obstructive sleep apnea are two common disorders that **coexist**

## **Introduction**

Epilepsy and obstructive sleep apnea profoundly **exacerbate** each other's [Peppard etal 2000]

## Introduction



Several **mechanisms** may contribute to the increased incidence of OSA in patients with epilepsy,

**Introduction**

The adverse effect of  
antiepileptic drugs

CNS depression,

Effect on upper airway tone,

Weight gain

**Introduction**

Reduced physical activity of  
patients with epilepsy  
Also seizures prolonged REM  
where OSA became worse  
[Sharafkhaneh A, etal 2005)

Introduction



Appearance of OSA symptoms coincided with clear increase in **seizure frequency** or an emergence of **status** in patients with epilepsy [Nieto F, etal 2011]

**Introduction**

A variety of **seizure-provoking mechanisms** in OSA patients are postulated

**Introduction**

Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is due to intermittent blockage of the upper airway with Consequent **reduction or cessation of airflow** during sleep [Frucht M, etal 2000]

## **Introduction**

It leads to

Cerebral hypoxemia,

cortical arousal,

Sleep fragmentation, and

**Introduction**

Decrease time spent in deep  
sleep, and

Sleep deprivation

[Wyler A, Weymuller E 2012].

**Introduction**



OSA with subsequent  
significant **morbidity**  
such as

**Introduction**

## Morbidity

increased risk of cardiac,  
respiratory, and  
metabolic consequences  
[Parra et al 2010]

## Introduction

## Mortality

OSA postulated as a cause of **sudden unexpected death** in patients with epilepsy

[Malow B, etal 2008]

# Introduction

To make matters worse,  
obstructive sleep apnea is  
notoriously **underdiagnosed**  
particularly in patients with  
epilepsy [Decary A, etal 2000]

## **Introduction**

The extent and clinical relevance of the association between epilepsy and sleep apnea are not previously studied in Egypt

## Introduction





What we wanted to know  
was the

This study aimed to look for the **frequency of sleep apnea in Egyptian** patients with epilepsy in comparison to a control group.

**Aim of work**

Try to find out sleep apnea  
relation to

Clinical data, Sleep complaint

Polysomnographic findings

**Aim of work**


The identification and treatment of OSA may have far-reaching consequences in improving patient's quality of life [Trupp R, etal 2004]

## Introduction

Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) treatment was found to improve seizure control in those patients [Gami A, etal 2005]

# Introduction



An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. On the left, a steep, rocky cliffside descends to a dark sand beach. A waterfall cascades down the cliff face. The ocean is a deep blue, with white waves crashing against the shore. In the distance, another coastline is visible under a clear sky.

# Patients and methods:



# Patients



This is a case control study of  
26 patients with epilepsy  
and  
26 normal controls Patients

**Patients and methods:**

## Inclusion criteria

Children with idiopathic  
epilepsy

**Patients and methods:**





Patients and methods:  
Exclusion criteria



Patients with any **neurological** disease apart from epilepsy; patients with **psychiatric** illness; patients with history of **hypnotics or sedatives** intake; or those with **liver or kidney failure** were excluded from the study.

The patients were divided into two subgroups according to apnea/hypopnea index (AHI):

**Group (1)** patients without  
OSA

**group (2)** patients with OSA

**Patients and methods:**

**Healthy** children their age and sex matched to our patients were also studied

**Patients and methods:  
control group**

Epilepsy history and detailed neurological examination

**Epilepsy history:** Neurologist interviewed patients and one of their close relative to inquire about age of onset of epilepsy and disease duration

**Methods**  
**Clinical assessment**

# Seizures characteristics

such as

Seizure frequency,

status epilepticus,

Circadian rhythm, and

Dosage of medications

**Methods**  
**Clinical assessment**

Type of epilepsy was determined according to International League against Epilepsy classification

**Methods**  
**Clinical assessment**



They were asked about total nocturnal **sleep time**, repeated **awakenings** during sleep, history of excessive **daytime** sleepiness, insomnia, and **nocturnal snoring**

**Methods**  
**Sleep history**

## Electroencephalogram(EEG)

was done for all patients using a Schwarzer GmbH medical diagnostic equipment

**Methods**  
**Electrophysiological**  
**assessment**

Video EEG monitoring was done for all patients using a Schwarzer GmbH medical diagnostic equipment and a digital video-camera (Panasonic AG6040)

**Methods**  
**Electrophysiological**  
**assessment**

Overnight **polysomnography** was performed for both patients and controls using a Schwarzer. Epos 32 GmbH, medical diagnostic polysomnogram, Germany

The software used was Somnologica version 3.1

**Methods**  
**Electrophysiological**  
**assessment**

Total sleep time (TST),  
Sleep efficiency,  
Percentage of each stage  
Number of awakenings,  
Arousal index and  
leg movements

## Methods

The polysomnographic  
parameters were :

**Apnea** events were counted according to the criteria established by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine

**Methods**  
**Polysomnographic**  
**assessment**



Statistical package for social science (SPSS) version 15 were used for data management. **Chi square test** was used for comparison between qualitative variables groups

**Statistical analysis:**

**Independent sample T test** was used for normally distributed quantitative variables as comparing age mean, seizure duration, and sleep efficiency among patient subgroups.

**Statistical analysis:**

**Mann-Whitney test** were used for non normally distributed quantitative variables as age of onset, number of awakening, sleep latency, PLM, and apnea and hypopnea index.

**Statistical analysis:**

**Pearson's correlation** coefficient was calculated for the association between the apnea/hypopnea index and clinical and polysomnographic data.

**Statistical analysis:**

The logistic regression analysis was done to test for significant predictors of OSA among the patients.

P value 0.05 was considered significant

**Statistical analysis:**



A nighttime photograph of the Doha skyline, Qatar. The Tower of Doha is prominent on the left. The city lights are reflected in the water, and several sailboats are visible on the right. The word "Results" is overlaid in large red text in the center.

# Results



The patients' age ranged from 4.5 to 18 years.

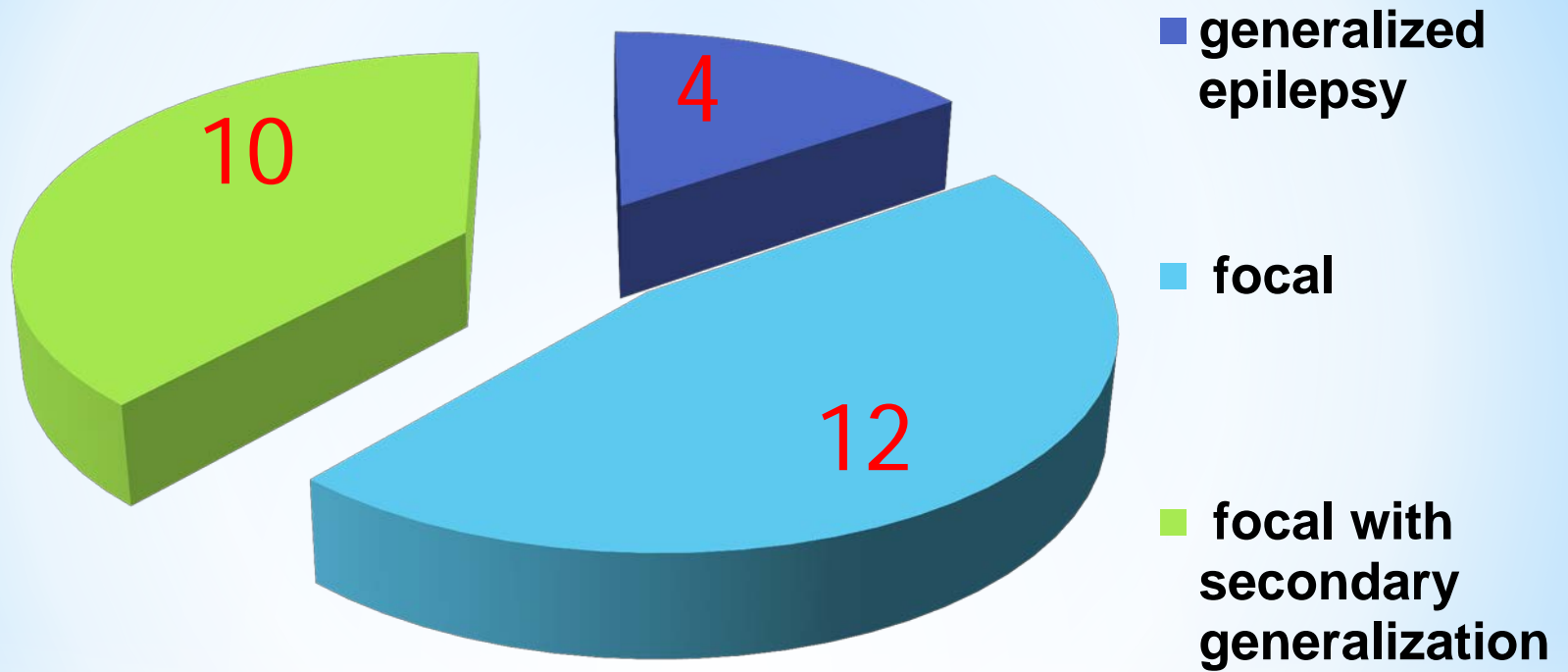
Ten (38.5%) of them were **girls**. Sixteen (61.5%) were **boys**.

**Results**

The **control** group were chosen to be age-and sex-**matched** to the patients group.

There were no obese children

**Results**



# Type of epilepsy

Mean age of onset of epilepsy was  $7.49 \pm 4.2$  years.

Mean duration was  $5.09 \pm 4.57$  minutes.

**Results**  
**Clinical**



The seizure frequency ranged from once per month to six per day with mean of  $47.6 \pm 53.2$  seizures per month

**Results**  
**Clinical**

Seizures were **uncontrolled** (more than once per month) in 24 patients (**92.3%**)

and three patients (11.5%) had history of **status** epilepticus.

**Results**  
**Clinical**

Circadian distribution of the attacks  
was

**diurnal** in two patients (7.7%),

**nocturnal** in 12 (46.2%),

and **both** diurnal and nocturnal in 12  
(46.2%).

**Results**  
**Clinical**

Six patients (23.1%) diagnosed had not received medications yet,  
Ten (38.5%) were on monotherapy,  
and 10 (38.5%) were on polytherapy

**Results**  
**Clinical**

The patients' sleep complaint

**Repeated awakenings** during sleep in 15 patients (57.7%)

**Daytime sleepiness** in 13 patients (50%).

**Snoring** was encountered in only two patients (7.7%).

**Sleep clinical results**



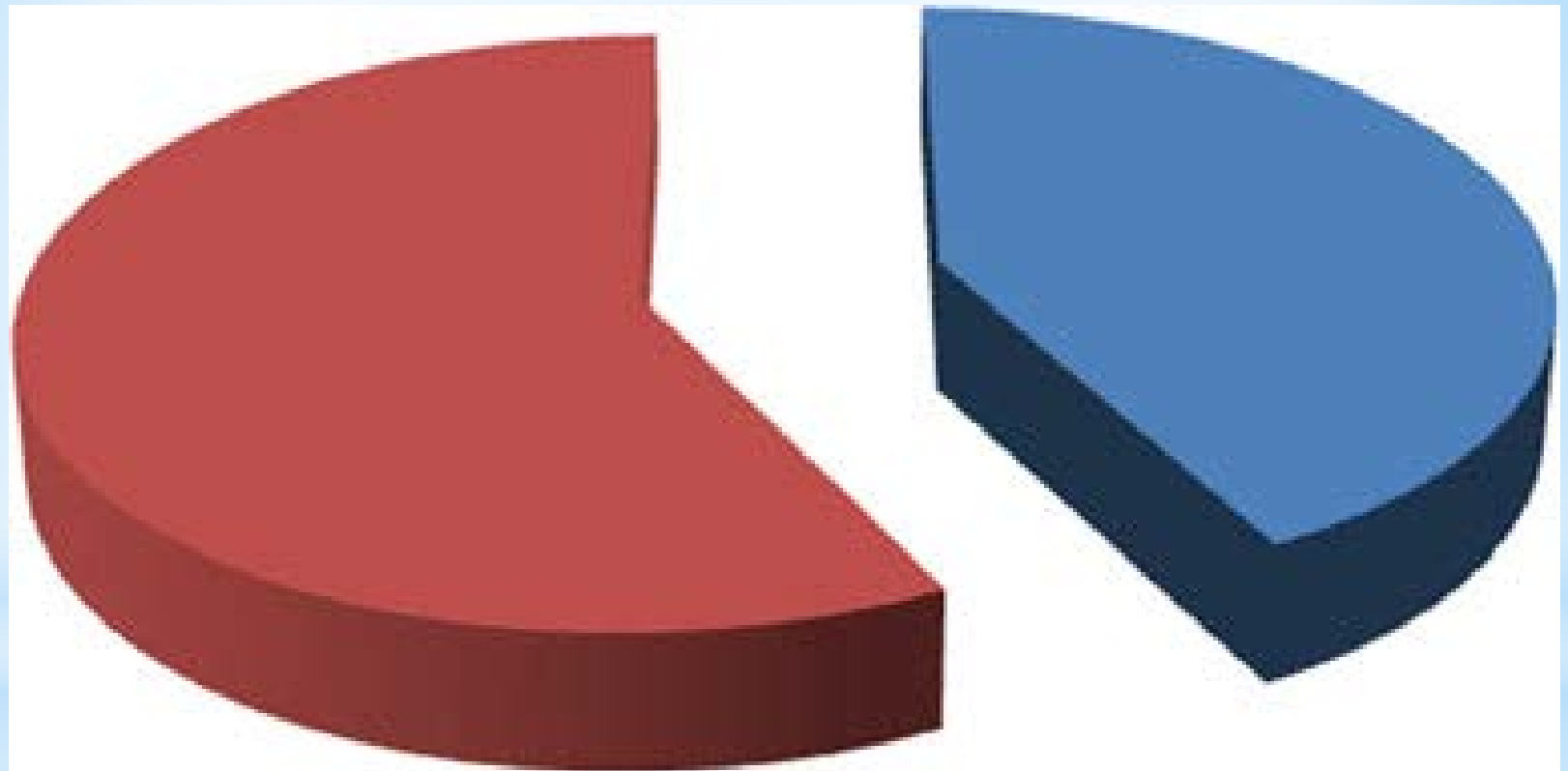
The patients had significantly **Higher** arousal index and percent of stage 2 from total sleep time but **lower** SWS percent from TST and sleep efficiency, in comparison to the control group.

**Polysomnographic results**

Polysomnographic data	Patients group	Controls group	P-value
Sleep onset in min.	18.73 ± 17.5	14.1 ± 12.16	.53
Sleep efficiency %	73.17 ± 7.33	83.12 ± 10.59	.006
No. of awakenings	12 ± 6.03	13.67 ± 5.1	.449
Sleep latency to S1	102.01 ± 114.58	102.43 ± 176.07	.530
Sleep latency to S2	51.7 ± 74.76	17.35 ± 13.21	.157
Sleep latency SWS	81.82 ± 78.9	74.6 ± 47.55	.489
Sleep latency REM	196.88 ± 108.38	224.08 ± 90.67	.572
% of S1 from TST	8.18 ± 7.18	7.22 ± 6.86	.530
% of S2 from TST	57.01 ± 17.12	44.05 ± 14.98	.022
% of SWS from TST	23.11 ± 10.27	36.08 ± 14.9	.012
% of REM from TST	12.57 ± 9.33	12.62 ± 6.28	.706
Arousal index	8.23 ± 10.88	.89 ± .62	.000
Periodic Leg Movement index	.82 ± 1.33	.38 ± .35	.545
Apnea index REM	.39 ± 1.10	.00 ± .00	.109
Apnea index in NREM	.31 ± .39	.00 ± .1	1
Hypopnea index in REM	1.75 ± 4.91	.00 ± .00	.255
Hypopnea index in NREM	.7 ± .97	.00 ± .45	.775
Apnea hypopnea index	1.21 ± 1.46	.00 ± .75	.704

Eleven patients with  
epilepsy (42.3%) have  
Obstructive sleep apnea

**Results**



■ With sleep apnea

■ Without sleep apnea

# Comparison between clinical variables in epilepsy patients' groups with and without OSA



Seizure **frequency** was significantly **higher** in the patients with OSA. All other clinical epilepsy, sleep, and EEG findings did not differ significantly

**Comparison  
Results**

If sleep **deprivation** is the assumed mechanism, one might expect that seizures during **both** sleep and wakefulness would be facilitated as in our study.

**Results**

If sleep **fragmentation** and frequent stage **shifts** resulting from apneas are responsible for provoking seizures, then seizures **during sleep** may be facilitated preferentially

[Wyler A etal 1981]

**Results**

Clinical variables	Group (1) Patients	Group (2) Patients	P-value
	without OSA	with OSA	
	No. (%)	No. (%)	
Age of onset	7.97 ± 3.37	6.83 ± 5.27	.310
Duration of illness	5.23 ± 3.86	4.89 ± 5.6	.435
Sex Female	7 (46.7%)	3 (27.3%)	.315
Male	8 (53.3%)	8 (72.7%)	
Type			.305
Generalized	3 (20%)	1 (9%)	
Focal	5 (33.3%)	7 (63.6%)	
Focal with secondary generalization	7 (46.7%)	3 (27.3%)	
<b>Seizure frequency</b>	<b>26.55 ± 36.18</b>	<b>63.07 ± 59.38</b>	<b>.046</b>
Status epilepticus	2 (13.3%)	1(9%)	.738
Circadian rhythm			.550
Diurnal	2 (13.3%)	0 (0%)	
Nocturnal	7 (46.7%)	5 (45.4%)	
Nocturnal and diurnal	6 (40%)	6 (54.6%)	
Treatment			.910
No Medication	3 (20%)	3 (27.3%)	
Monotherapy	6 (40%)	4 (36.3%)	
Polytherapy	6 (40%)	4 (36.3%)	

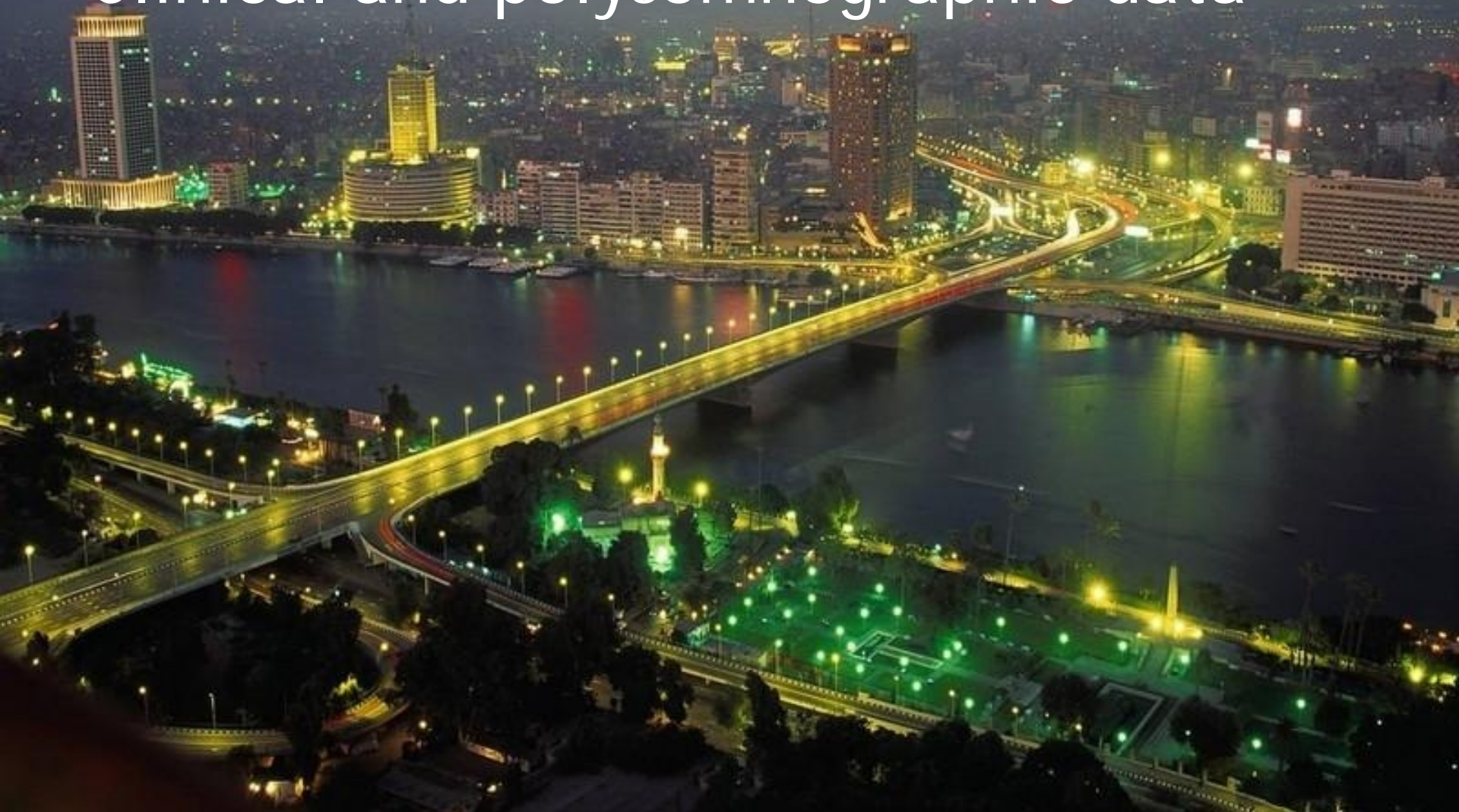
Apart from apnea and hypopnea indices, all other polysomnographic sleep parameters did not differ between patients' subgroups

**Results**  
**Comparison**



Polysomnographic data	Group (1)	Group (2)	P value
	patients without OSA	patients with OSA	
	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	
Sleep onset in min.	21.84 ± 21.46	14.49 ± 9.3	.659
Sleep efficiency %	85.3 ± 9.39	80.15 ± 11.83	.227
No. of awakenings	10.8 ± 5.02	13.64 ± 7.12	.404
Sleep latency to S1	92.66 ± 128.12	114.76 ± 97.61	.421
Sleep latency to S2	48.83 ± 69.57	55.63 ± 84.66	.659
Sleep latency SWS	79.23 ± 70.47	85.35 ± 92.67	.697
Sleep latency REM	182.69 ± 114.59	216.23 ± 101.34	.516
% of S1 from TST	8.53 ± 7.71	7.71 ± 6.72	.795
% of S2 from TST	57.81 ± 17.8	55.93 ± 16.94	.697
% of SWS from TST	22.07 ± 9	24.54 ± 12.08	.406
% of REM from TST	11.62 ± 9.88	13.87 ± 8.81	.311
Arousal index	5.57 ± 6.45	11.85 ± 14.57	.233
Periodic Leg Movement index	.86 ± 1.28	.75 ± 1.45	.546
Apnea index REM	.00 ± .00	.93 ± 1.58	.005
Apnea index in NREM	.16 ± .21	.51 ± .48	.062
Hypopnea index in REM	.03 ± .13	4.1 ± 7.05	.000
Hypopnea index in NREM	.23 ± .24	1.34 ± 1.22	.006
Apnea hypopnea index	.36 ± .27	2.36 ± 1.63	.000

# Correlation between apnea/hypopnea index, Clinical and polysomnographic data

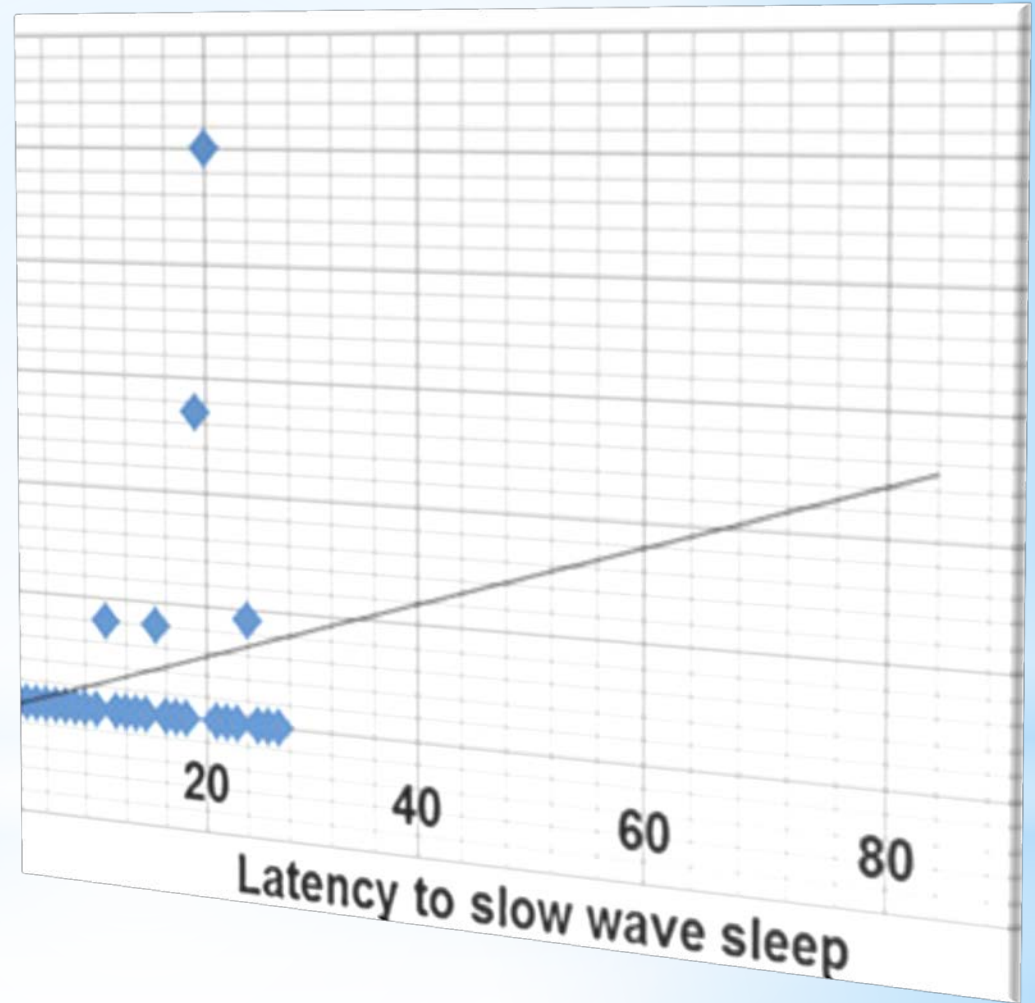


Apnea index in REM positively  
correlates with latency to  
deep sleep

Correlation



# Correlation



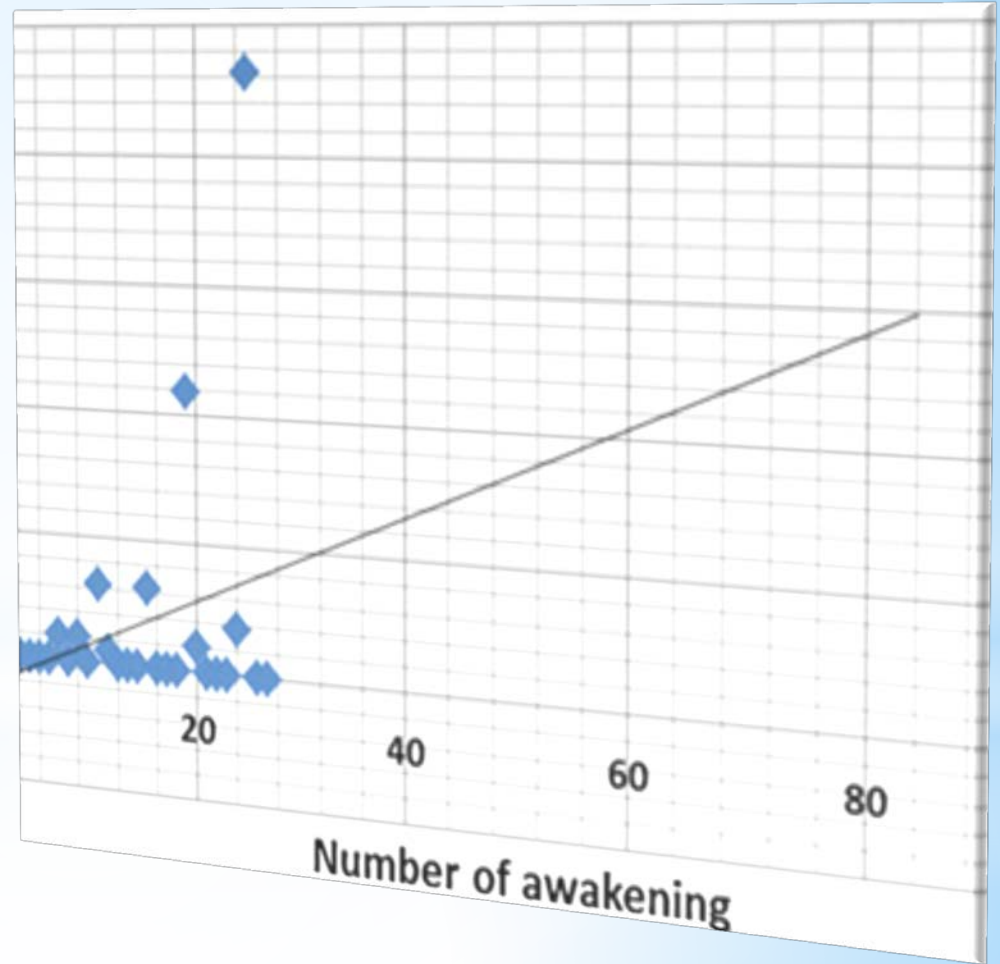
Correlation between Apnea index and latency to deep sleep

Hypopnea index in REM  
positively correlates with  
number of awaking ( $r=0.393$ ,  
 $P=0.047$ ).

**Results**  
**Correlation**



# Correlation



number of awakening and  
hypopnea index

It is well-known that sleep **apnea** is not the same throughout the course of the night. It tends to be **worse in (REM) sleep**

**Discussions**

Patients with epilepsy and OSA had significantly longer sleep latency and higher arousal index. A significant tendency towards light sleep than slow wave deep sleep

## Discussions

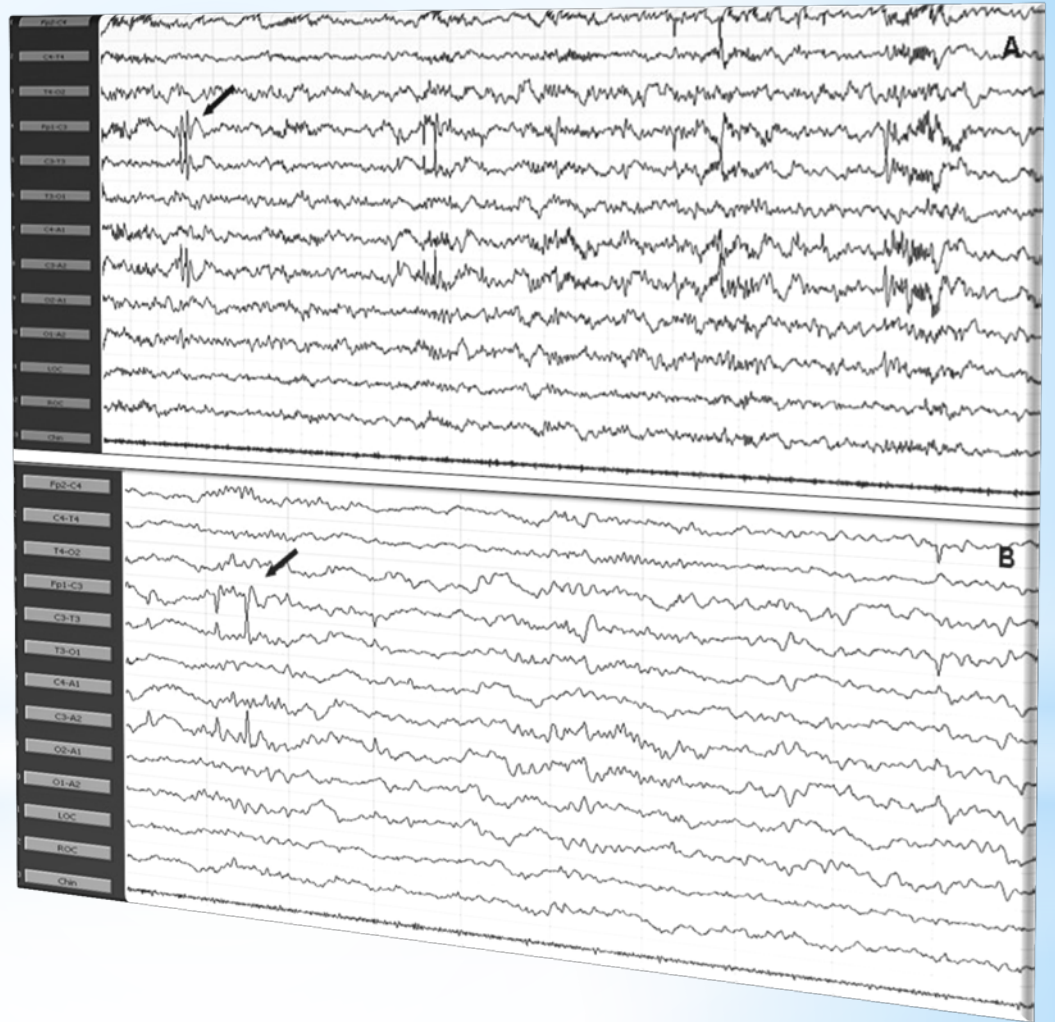
In this study, no epilepsy or sleep data have been found to be significant **predictors** of OSA in patients with epilepsy

# Discussions

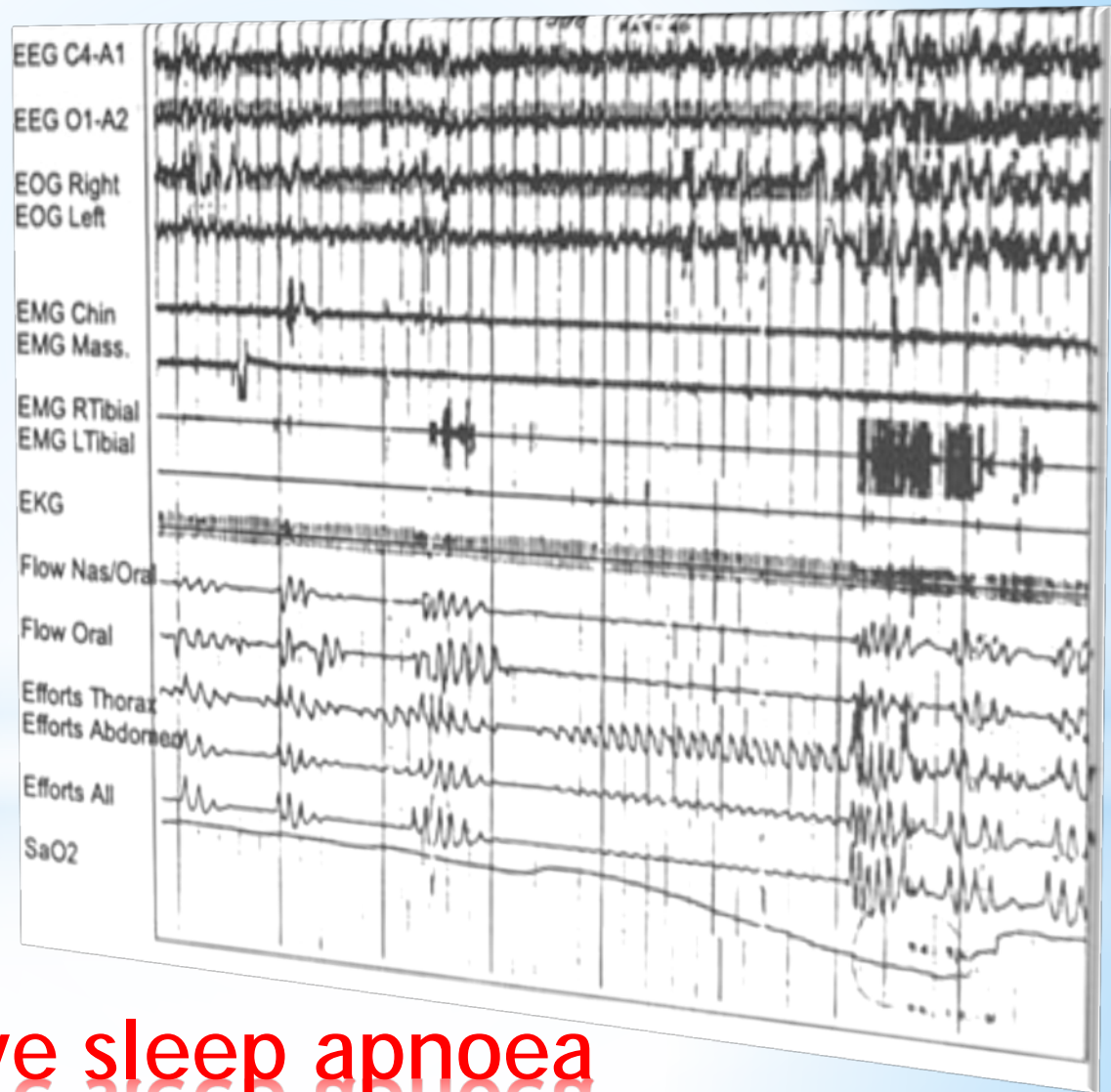
Contradictory to previous study that reported that older, heavier male, and sleepier epileptics are more prone to have OSA [Raffaele M, etal 2003].

**Discussions**





left centrotemporal sharp waves



Polysomnographic  
recording

Obstructive sleep apnoea





# Conclusions

Obstructive sleep apnea is **frequent** in patients with epilepsy.

Obstructive sleep apnea contribute to **increase seizures** frequency.

# Conclusions



Investigating sleep apnea in  
all patients with epilepsy  
even those without sleep  
complaint

**Recommendations**



Egypt  
Fayoum  
neurology  
Conference  
10-12  
November  
2016  
has01@  
fayoum.edu.eg

Finally



Thank  
You



Thank You