[Clin Neurophysiol.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25500193%22%20%5Co%20%22Clinical%20neurophysiology%20%3A%20official%20journal%20of%20the%20International%20Federation%20of%20Clinical%20Neurophysiology.) 2015 Aug;126(8):1514-23. doi: 10.1016/j.clinph.2014.10.215. Epub 2014 Nov 14.

**Early prediction of delayed cerebral ischemia in subarachnoid hemorrhage based on quantitative EEG: A prospective study in adults.**

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**Abstract**

**OBJECTIVES:**

Delayed cerebral infarction (DCI) has a significant impact on mortality and morbidity of patients with subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH). The aim of this study was to define quantitative EEG (qEEG) parameters for the early and reliable prediction of DCI and compare the validity and time course of qEEG to standard procedures.

**METHODS:**

12 consecutive unselected SAH patients (8 female, mean age 52 years, Hunt-and-Hess grade I-IV) were prospectively examined. Continuous six channel EEG monitoring was started within 48 h after admission (mean duration 5.2 days; range: 2-12 days). All raw and unselected EEG signal underwent automated artifact rejection, Short Time Fast Fourier Transformation and a detrending procedure in order to analyze regional spectral power changes in different frequency bands. According to clinical standards, transcranial Doppler sonography (TCD) was performed at least on alternate days and repeat cerebral computer tomography (CCT) as needed.

**RESULTS:**

6 patients (50%) developed vasospasm/DCI. Decrease of ⩾40% in power persisting over ⩾5h in the alpha band and ⩾6h in the theta band marked the optimal cut-off to detect DCI (sensitivity 89%, specificity 77% for alpha). EEG changes preceded detection of vasospasm/DCI in standard procedures by 2.3d ays. Changes in the beta and delta band as well as in the alpha/delta ratio demonstrated lower correlation with imminent DCI.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

Focal reduction in alpha power may represent a valid, observer independent, non-invasive and continuous marker for vasospasm/DCI in SAH patients.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

qEEG indicates imminent ischemia earlier than established diagnostic tools, such as TCD.

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**KEYWORDS:**

Delayed cerebral ischemia; Quantitative EEG; Subarachnoid hemorrhage; Vasospasm

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