

*MODELLI ANIMALI DI **EPILESSIA***

*Perché è necessario investire risorse umane e materiali in un'attività di ricerca sull'**epilessia**?*

- Le persone che soffrono di **epilessia** sono 50 milioni (inoltre le crisi epilettiche si possono manifestare in persone colpite da altre malattie, come l'autismo o la demenza tipo Alzheimer)*
- Esistono vari farmaci per curare l'**epilessia**, ma ciononostante un terzo delle persone che ne sono affette continuano a manifestare la malattia in quanto **farmacoresistenti***

TABLE 1. PRINCIPAL TYPES OF SEIZURES.

TYPE OF SEIZURE	CLINICAL FEATURES	ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHIC FEATURES*
Partial		
Simple partial seizures (focal)	Signs and symptoms may be motor, sensory, autonomic, or psychic, depending on the location of the electrical discharge; consciousness is not impaired	Focal slowing or sharp-wave activity, or both
Complex partial seizures (temporal lobe or psychomotor)	Seizure may begin with no warning or with motor, sensory, autonomic, or psychic signs or symptoms; consciousness is impaired; automatisms (automatic acts of which the patient has no recollection) may occur; seizure is often followed by a period of confusion	Focal slowing or sharp-wave activity, or both
Secondarily generalized partial seizures (tonic-clonic, or grand mal)	Seizures may begin with motor, sensory, autonomic, or psychic signs or symptoms; consciousness is lost, with tonic increase in muscle tone; subsequent rhythmic (clonic) jerks subside slowly; patient is comatose after seizure and recovers slowly; tongue biting or incontinence, or both, may occur	Focal slowing or sharp-wave activity, or both
Generalized		
Absence seizures (petit mal)	Seizure begins rapidly, with a brief period of unresponsiveness (average, 10 seconds) and rapid recovery; there may be increased or decreased muscle tone, automatisms, or mild clonic movements. Seizure can be precipitated by hyperventilation; age at first seizure, 3–20 yr	Spike-wave pattern (3 Hz)
Primarily generalized tonic-clonic seizures (grand mal)	Loss of consciousness occurs without warning or is preceded by myoclonic jerks; clinical features are similar to those of a secondarily generalized partial seizure	Spike-wave pattern (3–5 Hz)

DIFFERENT RECORDING METHODS IN EPILEPSY

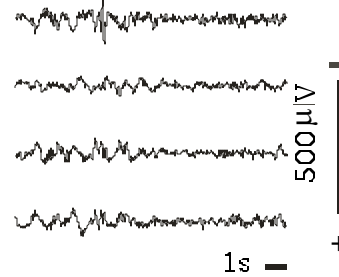
epileptic patient

scalp
EEG

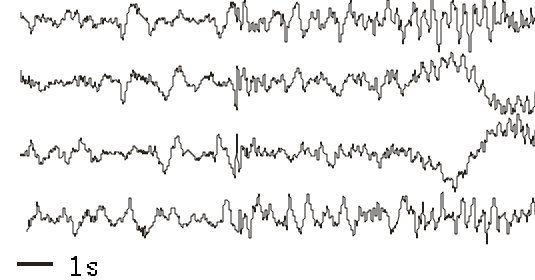


F8-F4
F4-Fz
Fz-F3
F3-F7

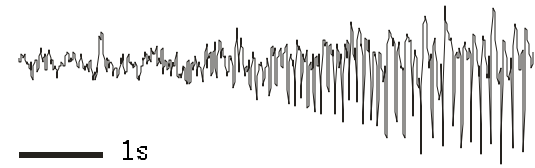
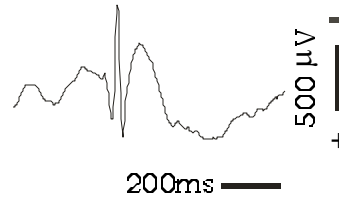
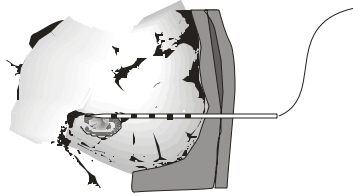
interictal



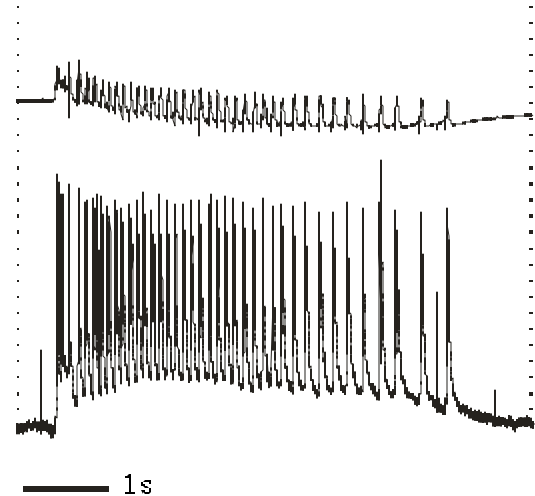
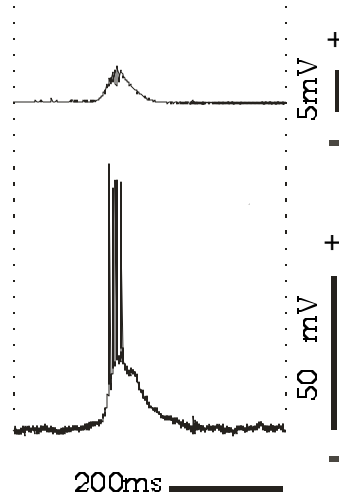
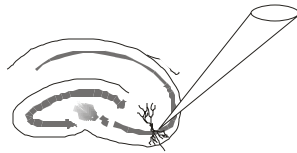
seizure



depth
EEG

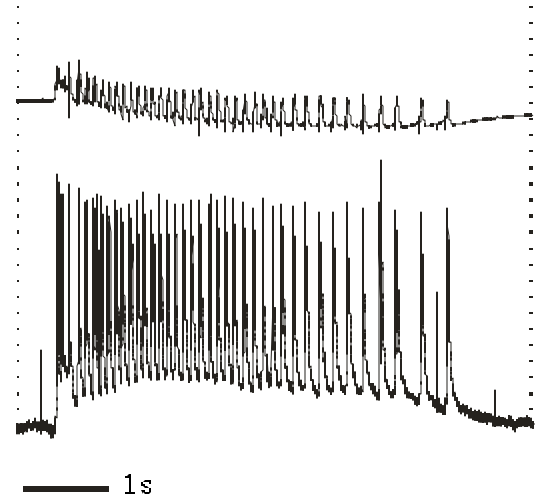
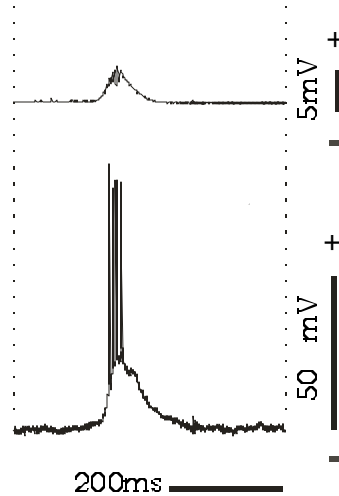
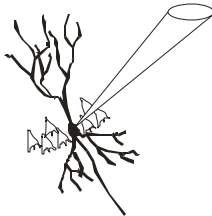


field

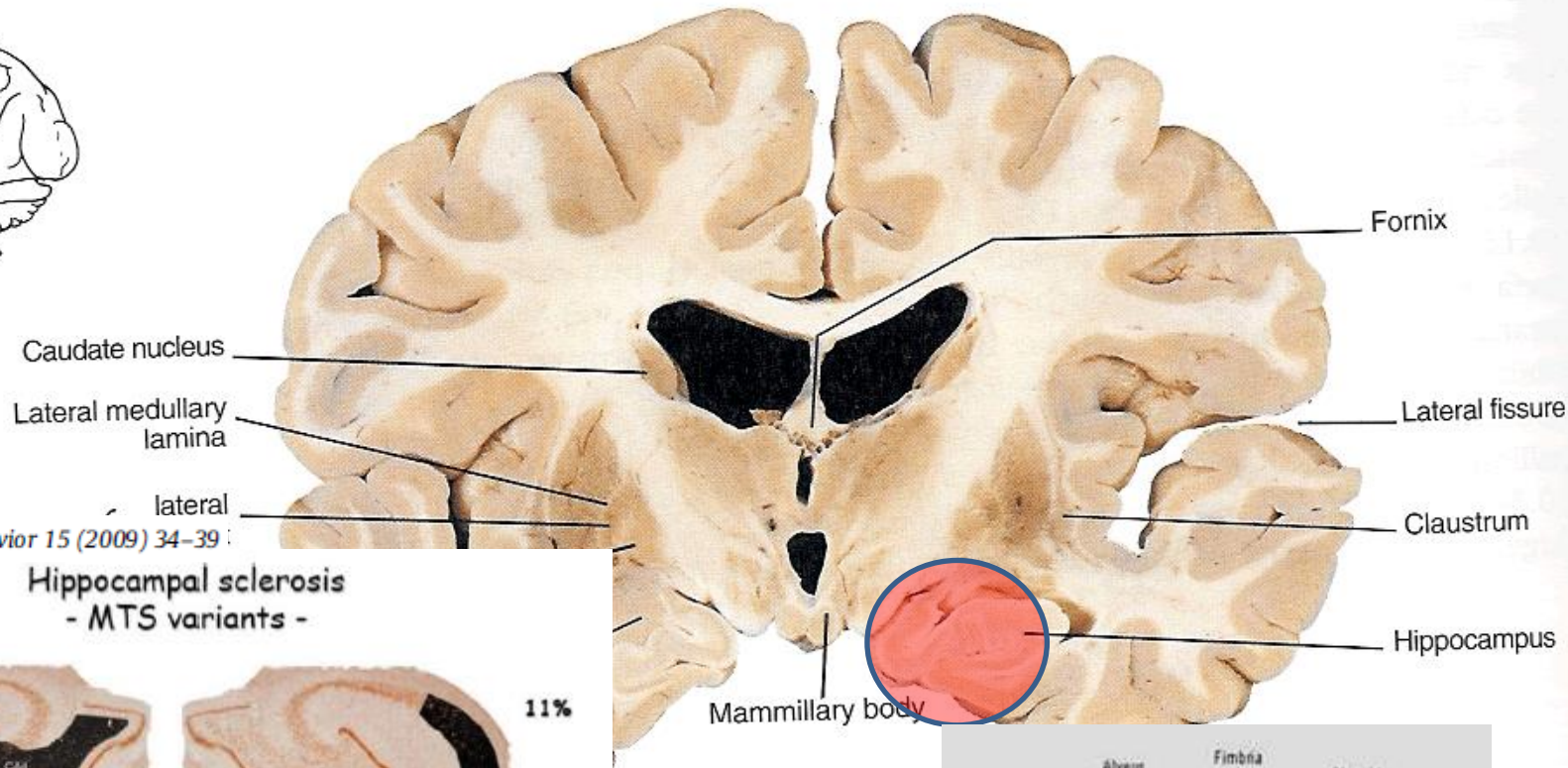
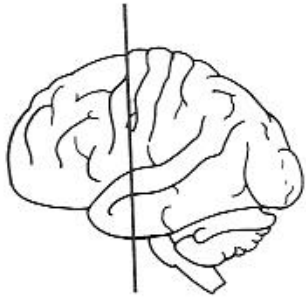


brain slice

intra-
cellular

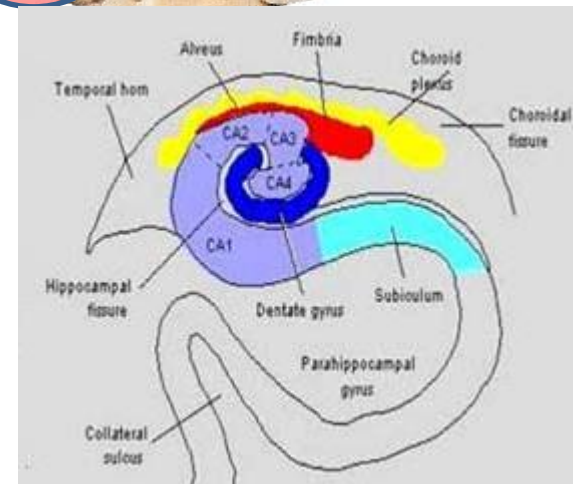
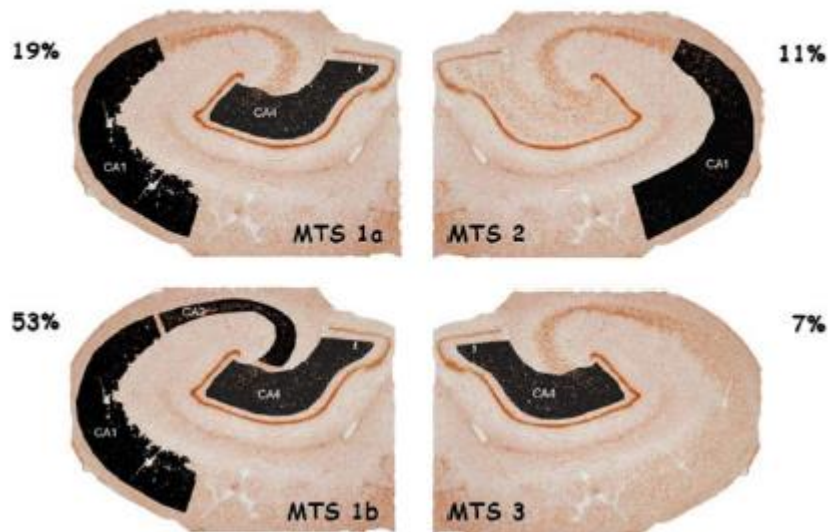


FARMACORESISTENZA: L'EPILESSIA DEL LOBO TEMPORALE



I. Blümcke/ *Epilepsy & Behavior* 15 (2009) 34–39 :

Hippocampal sclerosis
- MTS variants -



MODELLI DI **EPILESSIA** DI USO COMUNE

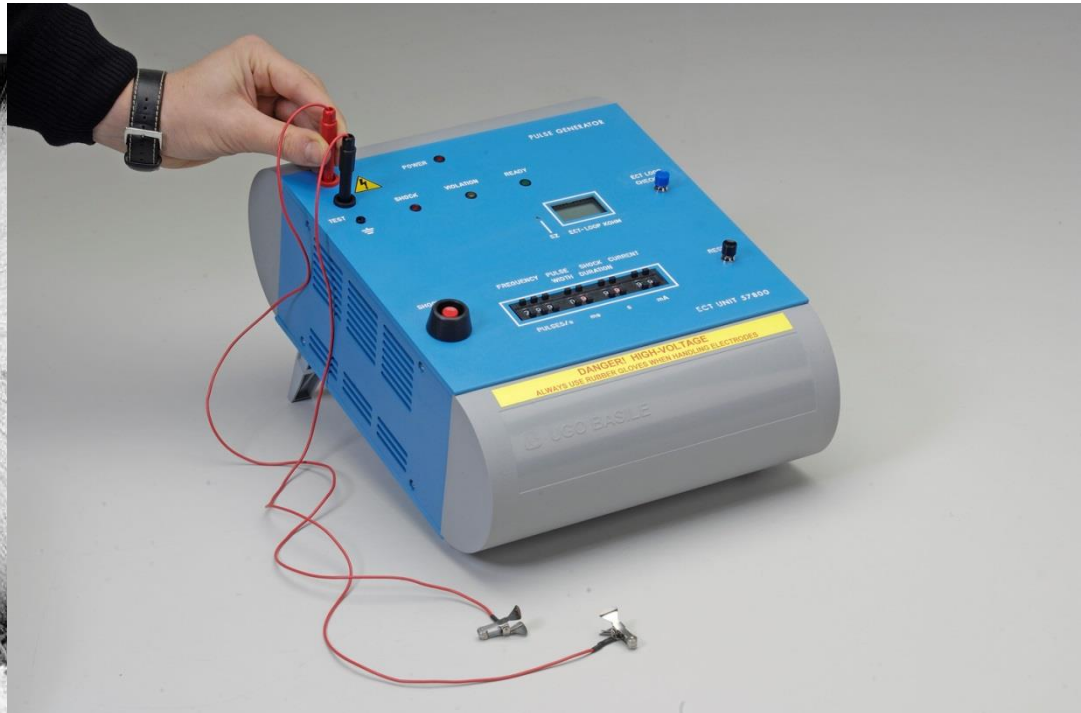
1. Modelli che si basano sulla comparsa di **epilessia spontanea** in seguito a processi di selezione o modificazioni genetiche

- Selezione di ceppi con epilessia spontanea (GAERS, WAG/Rij, ecc.)
- Topi knockout, transgenici, trisomici (sindrome di Dravet, sindrome del cromosoma X fragile, ecc.)



*2. Modelli che si basano sull'applicazione di **corrente elettrica** elettrica:*

- Elettrodi intracranici (amigdala, ippocampo, ecc.)*
- Elettrodi extracranici (auricolari, corneali, ecc.)*



*3. Modelli che si basano sulla somministrazione di farmaci o agenti tossici **convulsivanti**:*

- Sostanze non lesive (pentilenetetrazolo, penicillina, ecc.)*
- Sostanze lesive (pilocarpina, acido cainico, ecc.)*

*Modelli di **stato epilettico**:*

- Somministrazione di acido cainico o di pilocarpina*
- Stimolazione sostenuta di un'area cerebrale sino alla comparsa di crisi spontanee*

*Modelli di **kindling**:*

- Somministrazione di un convulsivante (pentilenetetrazolo)*
- Stimolazione elettrica sottosoglia ripetuta*

*Le tecniche utilizzate per indurre crisi epilettiche, nonché l'**epilessia** stessa, sono potenzialmente causa di sofferenze di grado elevato negli animali utilizzati e richiedono l'applicazione della regola delle tre R (**Replacement**, **Reduction**, **Refinement**) - Wolfensohn et al. 2013, J. Pharmacol. Toxicol. Methods*

*Le azioni di miglioramento (**Refinement**) devono essere valutate in rapporto a vari fattori:*

- *Lo scopo dello studio*
- *La validità traslazionale del modello o della tecnica*
- *Il disegno sperimentale, includendo lo studio della letteratura e della potenza statistica*
- *Il tipo di tecnica utilizzata*
- *Il tipo ed il grado di lesività*
- *I metodi di monitoraggio e di valutazione clinica degli effetti indesiderati*
- *Il grado di abilità tecnica dello staff che svolge l'attività sperimentale e che esegue il monitoraggio*

Che cosa valuta il ricercatore prima di scegliere il modello sperimentale più appropriato:

- *Se l'impiego dell'animale è giustificato in quanto non sostituibile (**Replacement** - è possibile l'impiego di tessuto-culture-simulazioni al computer?).*
- *Il numero di animali minimo con il quale poter effettuare un'analisi statistica di potenza sufficiente (**Reduction**). Questo calcolo deve basarsi sulla stima della eventuale riduzione del campione durante l'esperimento, per conseguenze non desiderate.*
- *Le strategie da adottare per ridurre la sofferenza dell'animale durante l'esecuzione dell'esperimento (**Refinement**). Queste azioni di miglioramento devono necessariamente riguardare anche la stabulazione.*

Modelli di *epilessia* - Replacement:

- Selezione di ceppi con epilessia spontanea (GAERS, WAG/Rij, ecc.) o geneticamente modificati (sindrome di Dravet, sindrome del cromosoma X fragile, ecc.)
- Impiego di tessuto
- Simulazione al computer

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Research Article

Enhanced Synaptic Connectivity in the Dentate Gyrus during Epileptiform Activity: Network Simulation

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frontiers in
CELLULAR NEUROSCIENCE

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE
published: 25 April 2013
doi: 10.3389/fncl.2013.00046

Resilience to audiogenic seizures is associated with p-ERK1/2 dephosphorylation in the subiculum of *Fmr1* knockout mice

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Epilepsia, 51(3):423–431, 2010
doi: 10.1111/j.1528-1167.2009.02273.x

FULL-LENGTH ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Antiepileptic drugs abolish ictal but not interictal epileptiform discharges in vitro

*Margherita D'Antuono, †Rüdiger Köhling, *Serena Ricalzone, *Jean Gotman, ‡Giuseppe Biagini, and *§Massimo Avoli

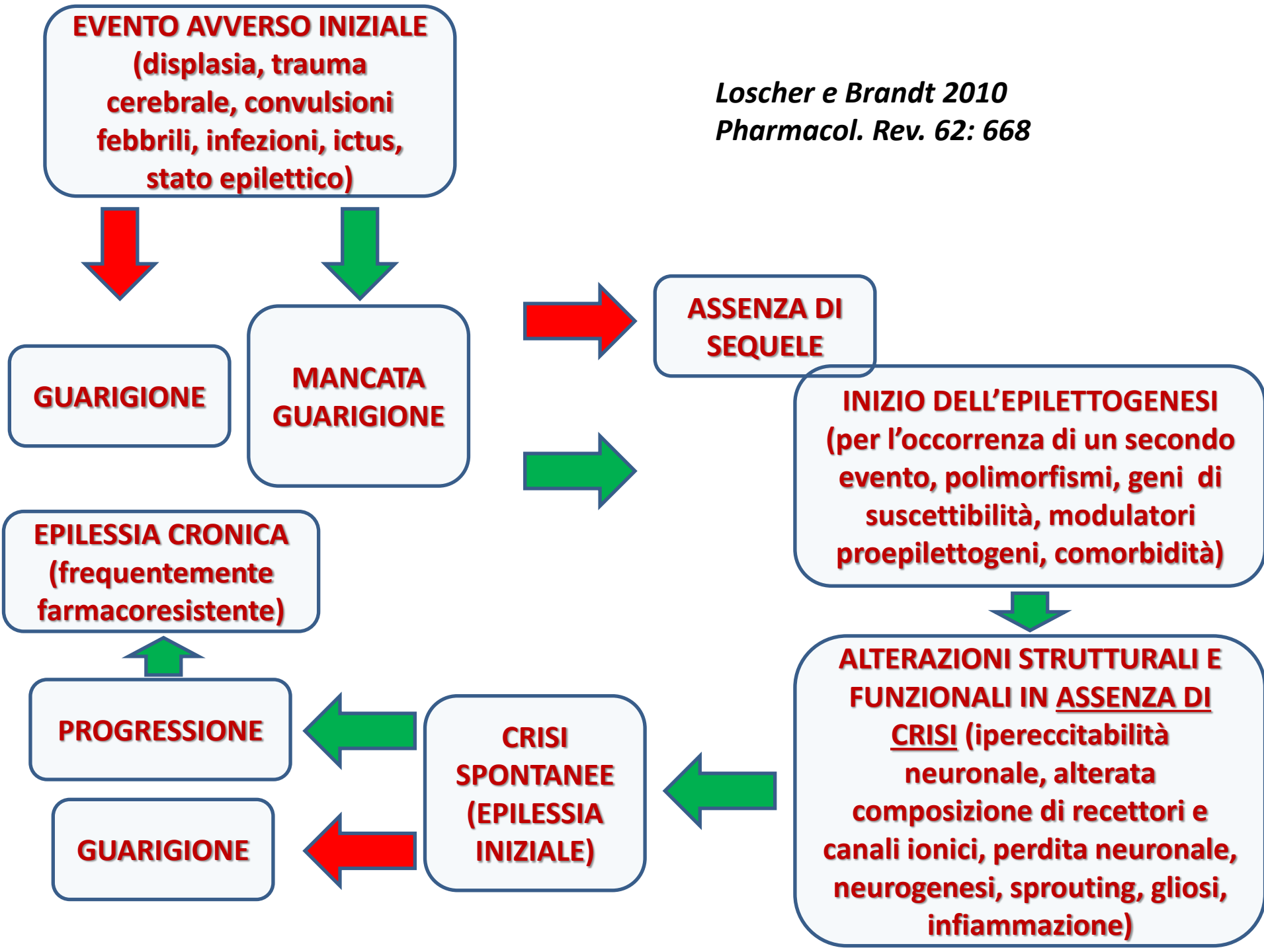
*Montreal Neurological Institute and Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; †Institute of Physiology, University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany; ‡Dipartimento di Scienze Biomediche, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy; and §Dipartimento di Medicina Sperimentale, Sapienza Università di Roma, Roma, Italy

*In quali casi non si riesce a rinunciare a un modello animale di **epilessia**?*

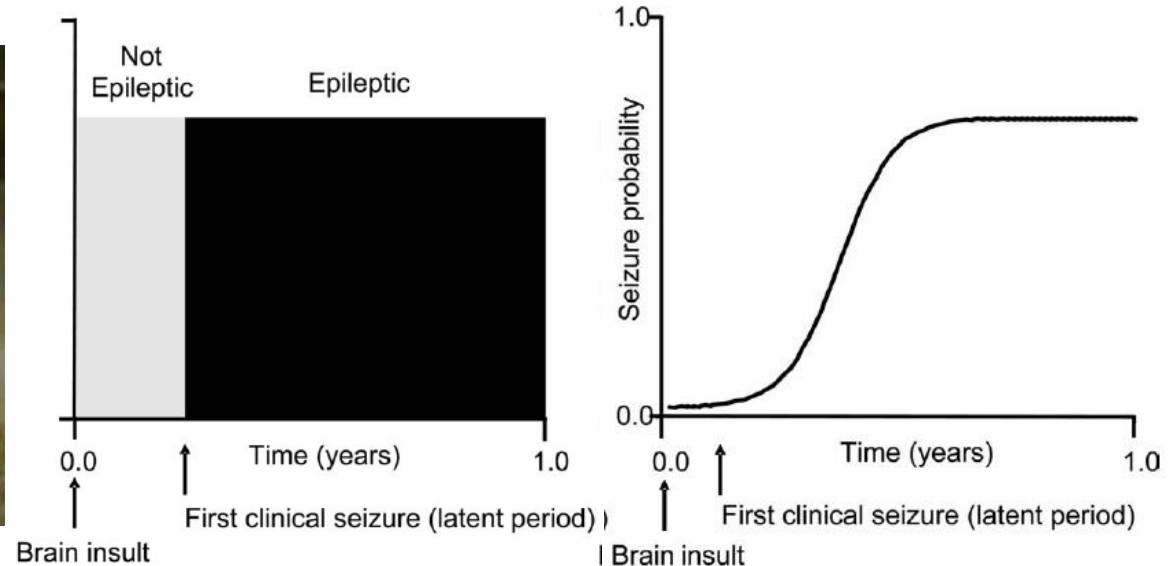
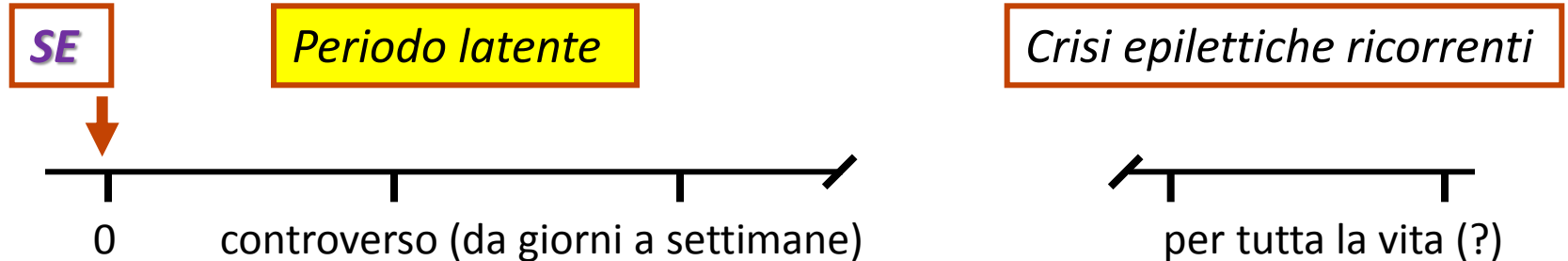
Epilettogenesi: è lo studio dei meccanismi attraverso i quali il cervello normale, se esposto a stimolazioni ripetute o a crisi epilettiche prolungate, diviene in grado di sviluppare crisi epilettiche - Wolfensohn et al. 2013, J. Pharmacol. Toxicol. Methods

Farmacoresistenza: la mancata risposta alla terapia farmacologica è propria del tessuto cerebrale danneggiato. La lesione può conseguire a un difetto di sviluppo (malformazione) o a una lesione acquisita in seguito a crisi epilettiche ripetute e/o prolungate - Loscher e Brandt 2010, Pharmacol. Rev.

*Loscher e Brandt 2010
Pharmacol. Rev. 62: 668*



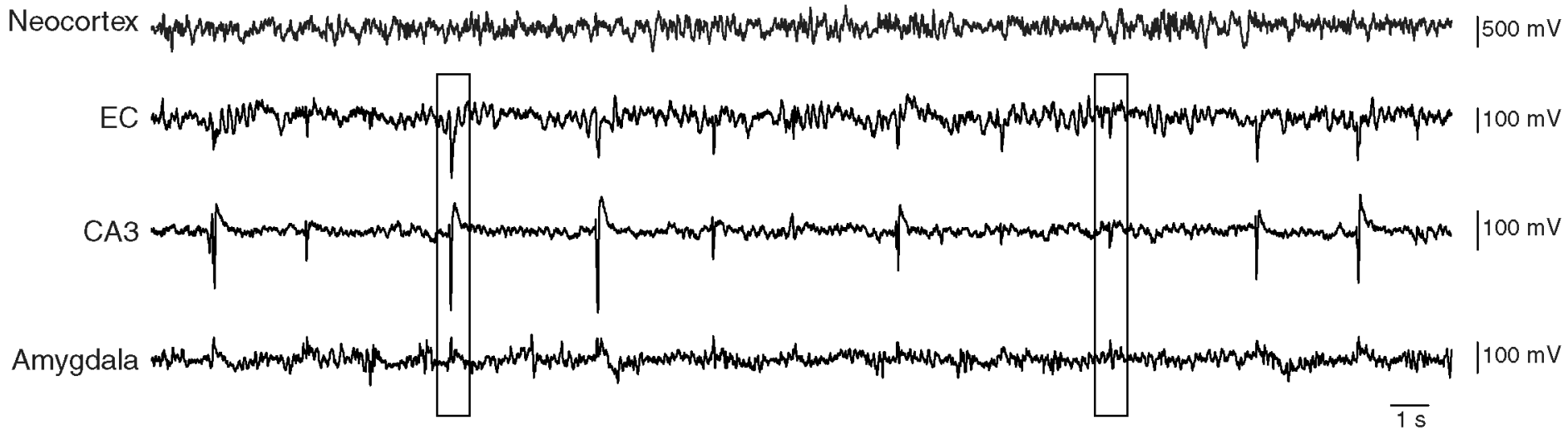
→ Epilettogenesi nei modelli di stato epilettico (SE)



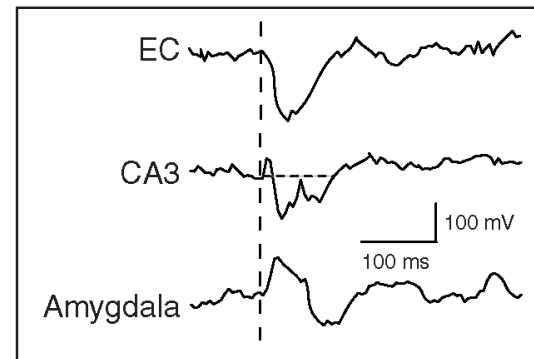
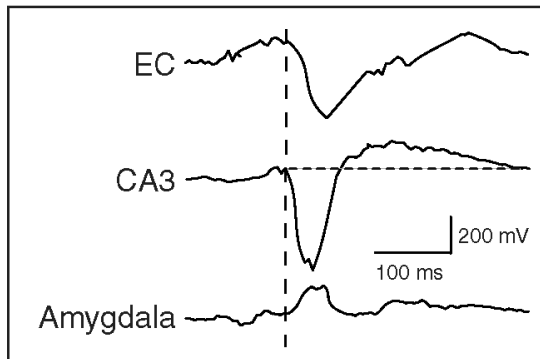
LATENT PERIOD (4-5 days)

A

a



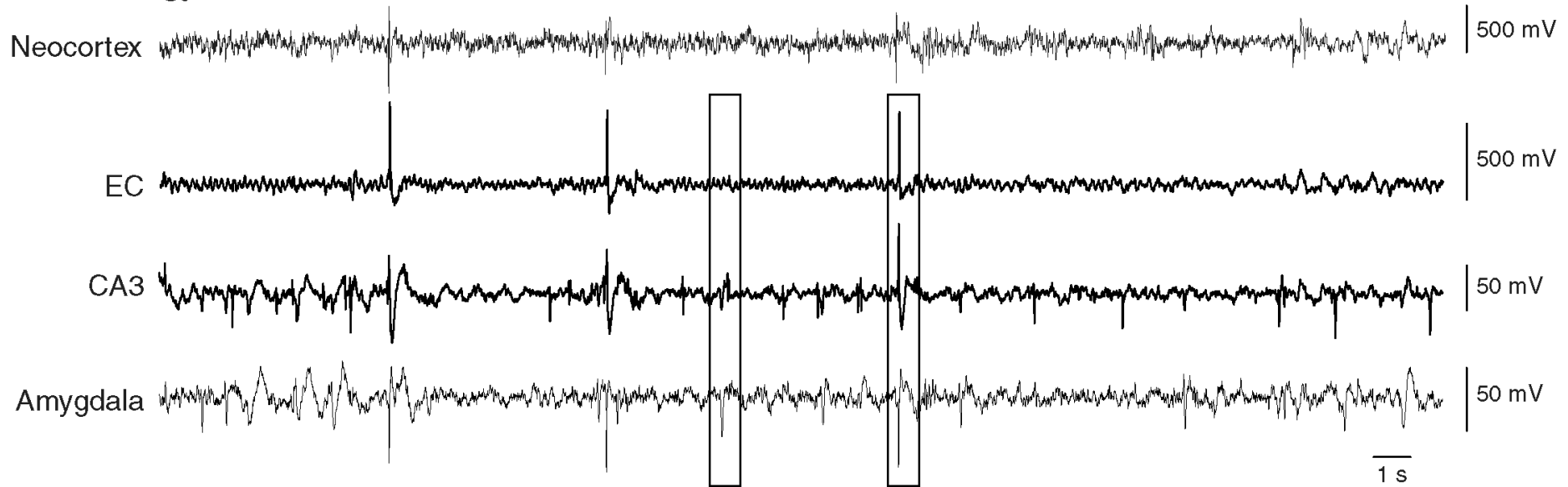
b



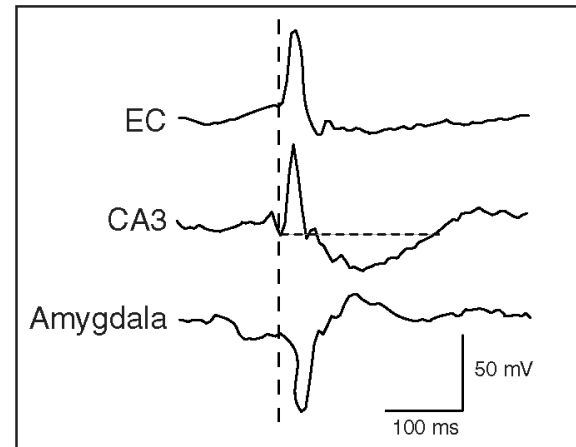
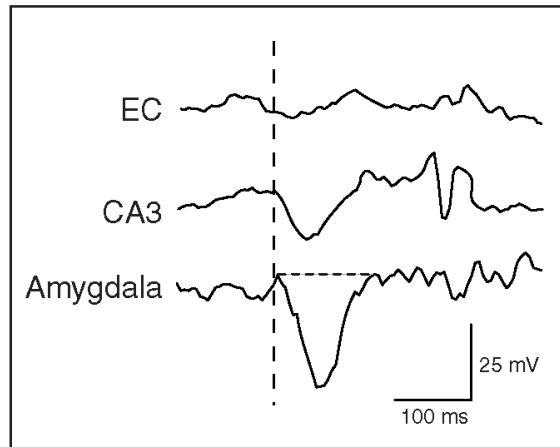
CHRONIC PERIOD

A

a

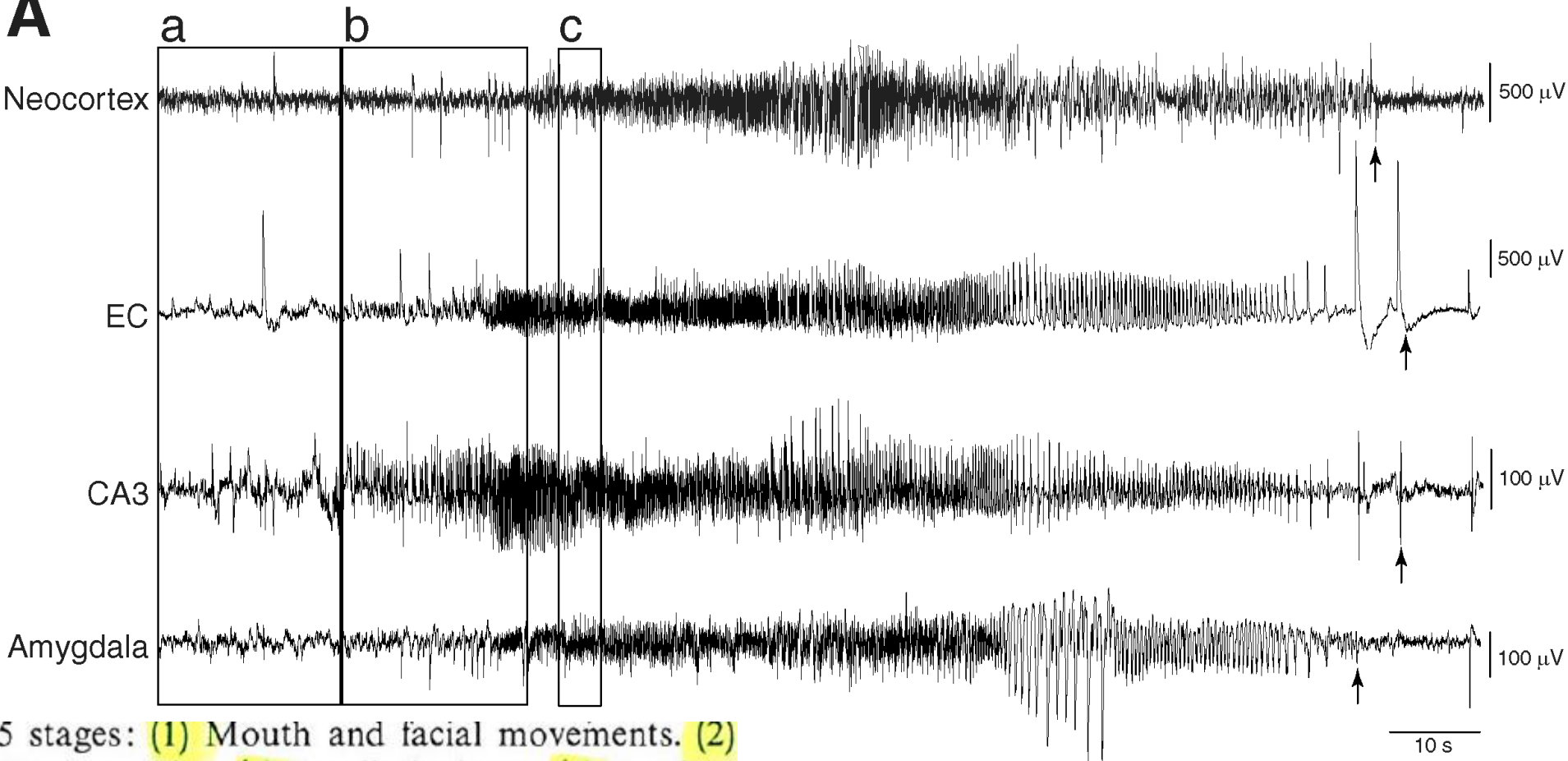


b



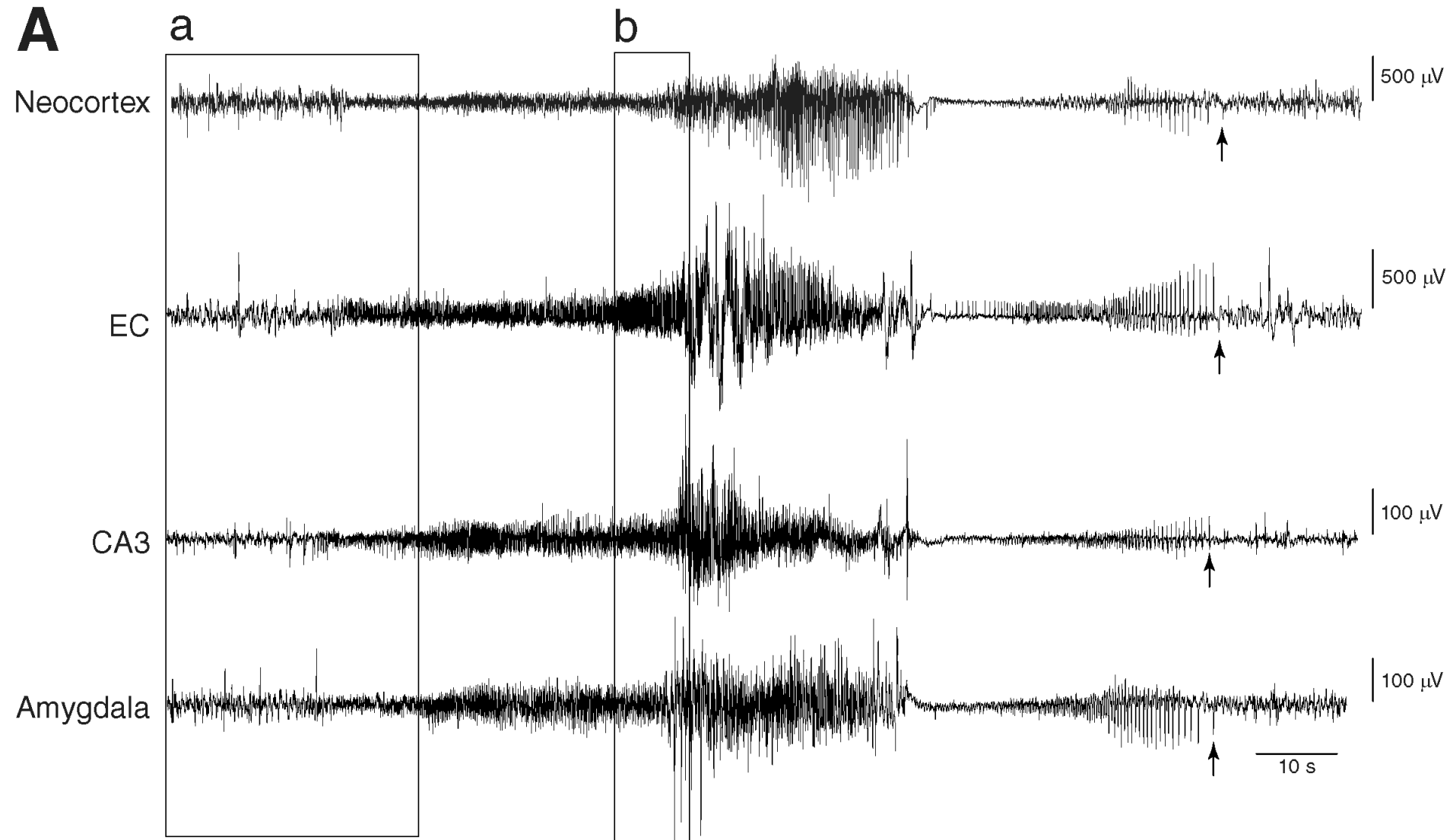
CHRONIC PERIOD - ICTAL DISCHARGE OF NONCONVULSIVE SEIZURES - Stages 1-2 Racine RJ 1972

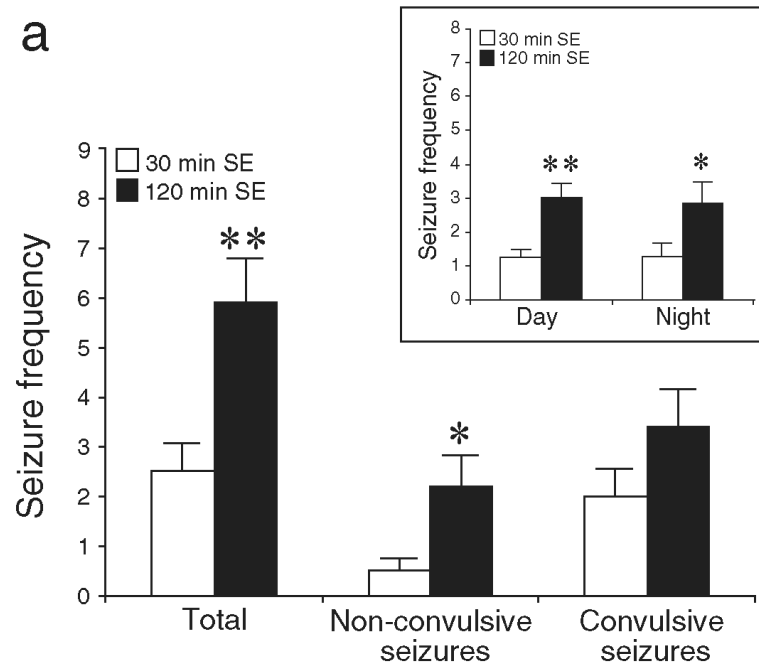
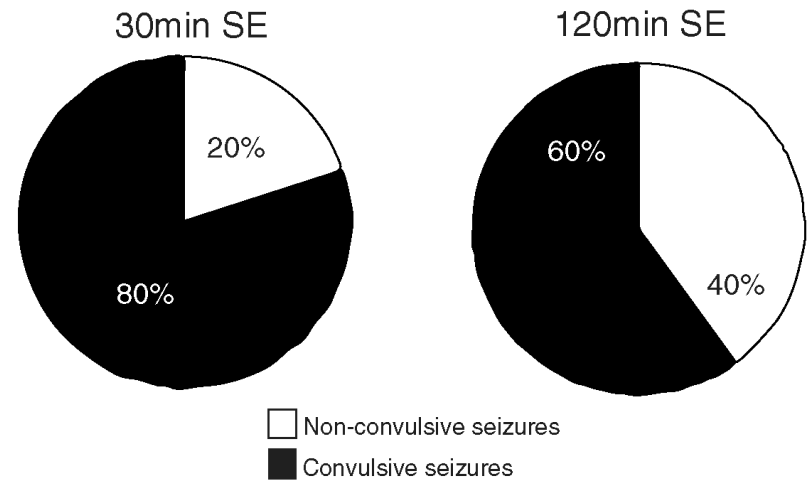
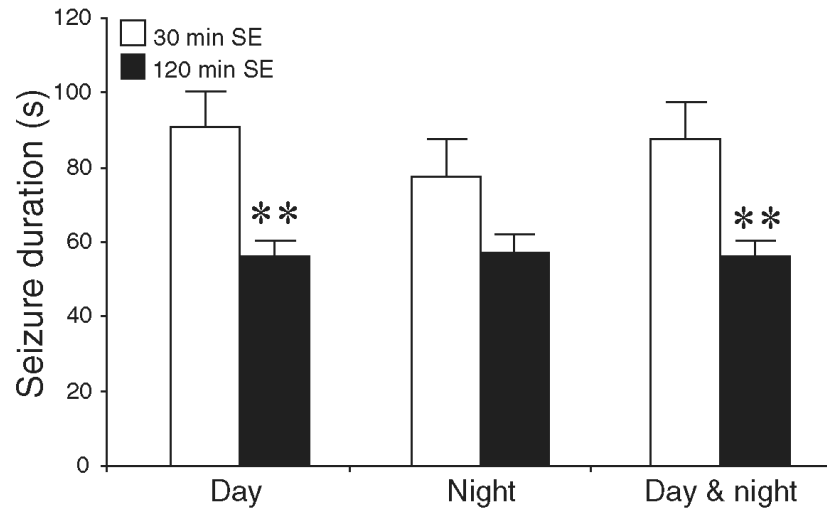
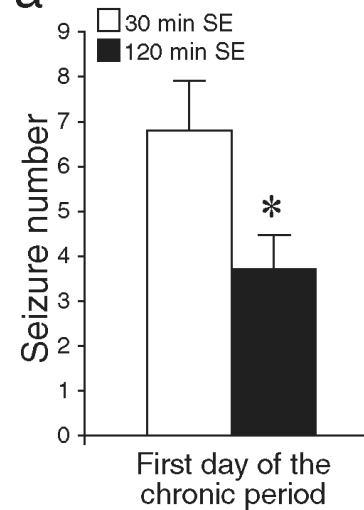
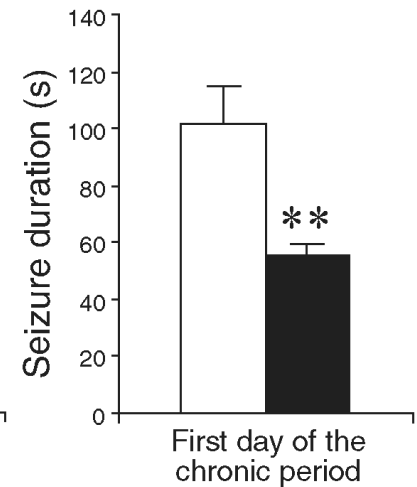
A

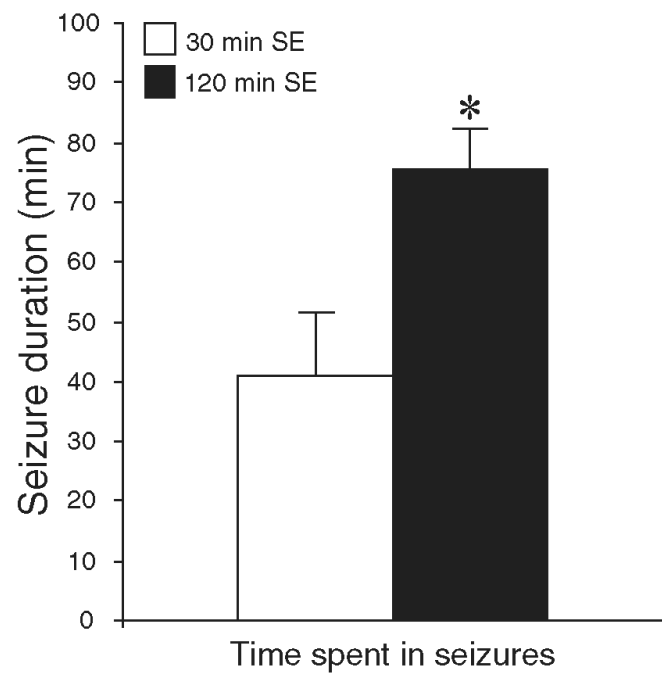
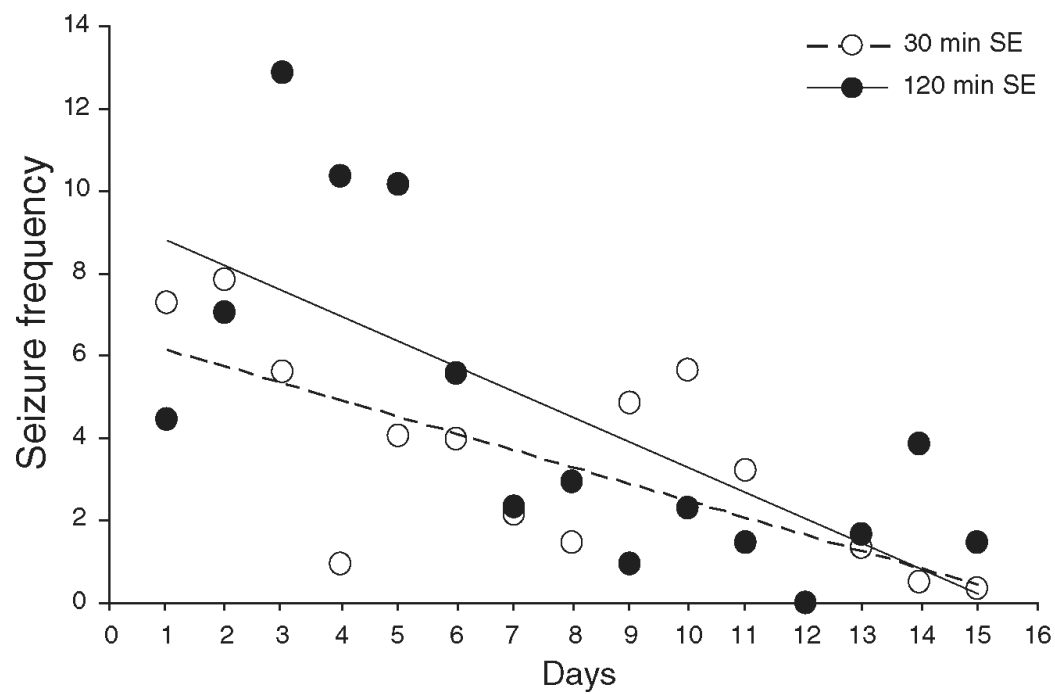


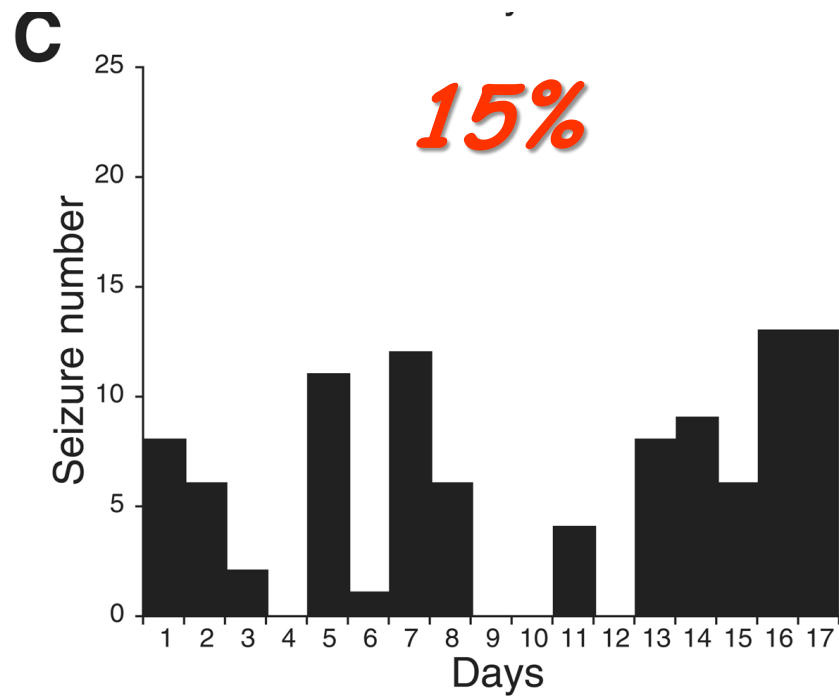
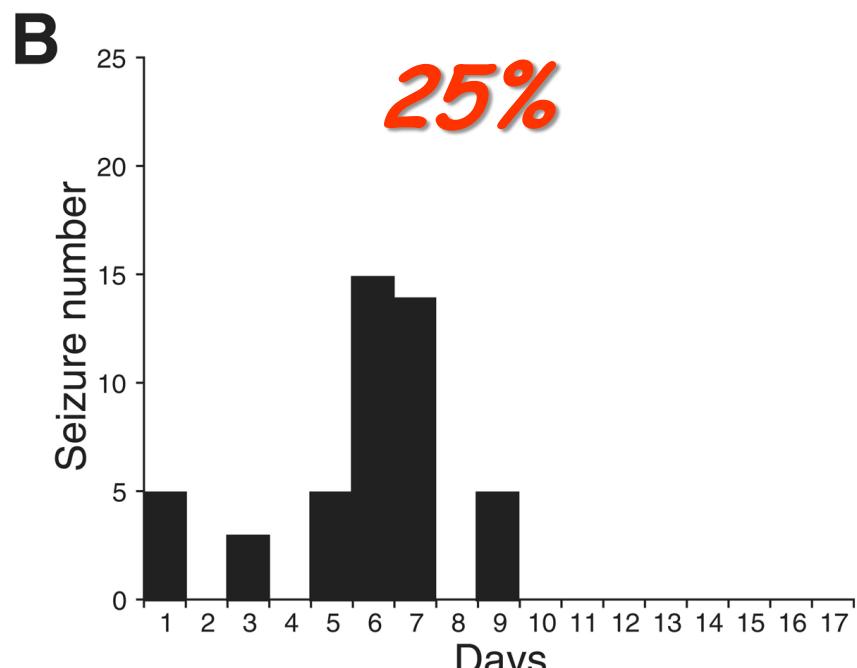
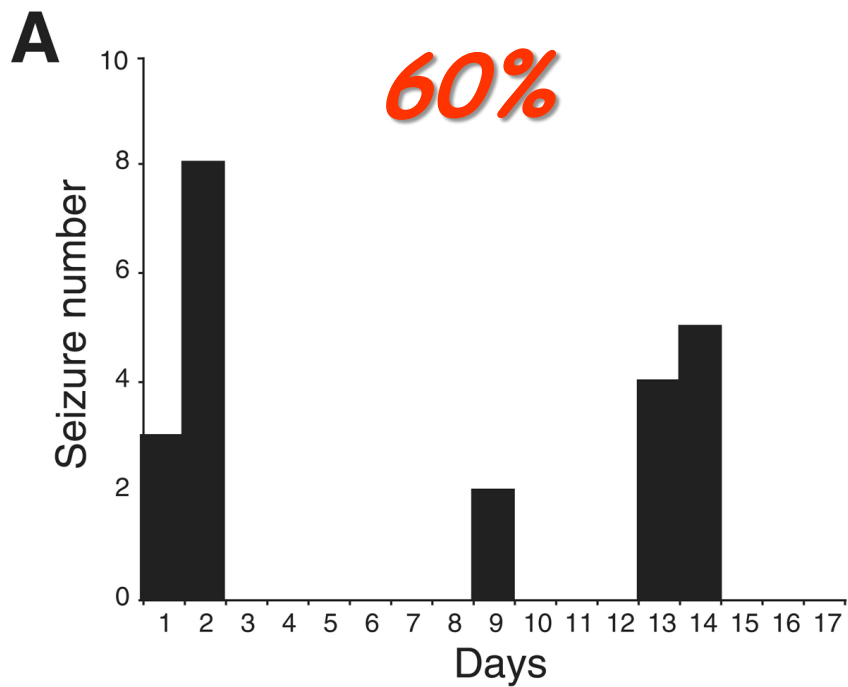
5 stages: (1) Mouth and facial movements. (2) Head nodding. (3) Forelimb clonus. (4) Rearing. (5) Rearing and falling. A full motor seizure, with loss of postural control, will be referred to as a Class 5 motor seizure.

***CHRONIC PERIOD - ICTAL DISCHARGE OF
CONVULSIVE SEIZURES - Stages 3-5
Racine RJ 1972***



A**a****b****B****C****a****b**

D**E**



Modelli di stato epilettico: dove agire per migliorare?

Possibili effetti indesiderati

Dolorabilità postchirurgica

Infezioni

Vulnerabilità postchirurgica

Lesione da espanto di elettrodi

Mortalità post-SE

Depressione - ansia

Sintomi neurologici

Crisi epilettiche violente

Azione di miglioramento

operatore esperto-analgesia

asetticità-antibiotici

setting postchirurgico

appropriato

selezione dei materiali

stabulazione appropriata

limitare la durata del SE

nutrizione liquida o gel

monitoraggio costante

socializzazione

arricchimento ambientale

oggetti transazionali

monitoraggio clinico

terapia farmacologica

limitazione della durata

minimizzare lo stress

ambientale

Azioni di miglioramento intraprese per il modello basato sulla somministrazione di pilocarpina

Effetti indesiderati

Azione di miglioramento

ACUTI

*Scialorrea, vomito, diarrea
ecc... da attivazione parasimpatico*

*pretrattamento con
scopolamina*

*Mortalità in corso di
stato epilettico (SE)*

*riduzione della durata
somministrazione di
diazepam - xilazina
selezione specie*

SUBACUTI

*Mortalità post-SE
(lesioni estese)*

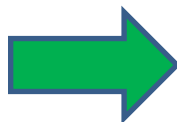
*limitare la durata del SE
monitoraggio costante
nutrizione liquida o gel
somministrazione diazepam*

CRONICI

Crisi epilettiche violente

*minimizzare lo stress
ambientale*

**RIDUZIONE DELLA
MORTALITA'**



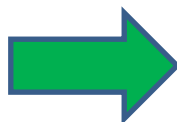
**INCREMENTO DELLA
NUMEROSITA' DEL
CAMPIONE**



**NECESSITA' DI UN
MINOR NUMERO DI
ANIMALI**

REDUCTION

**RIDUZIONE DELLA
LESIVITA'**



**RIDUZIONE DELLA
GRAVITA' DELLE CRISI**



**MINOR STRESS PER
L'ANIMALE AFFETTO
DA EPILESSIA**

REFINEMENT

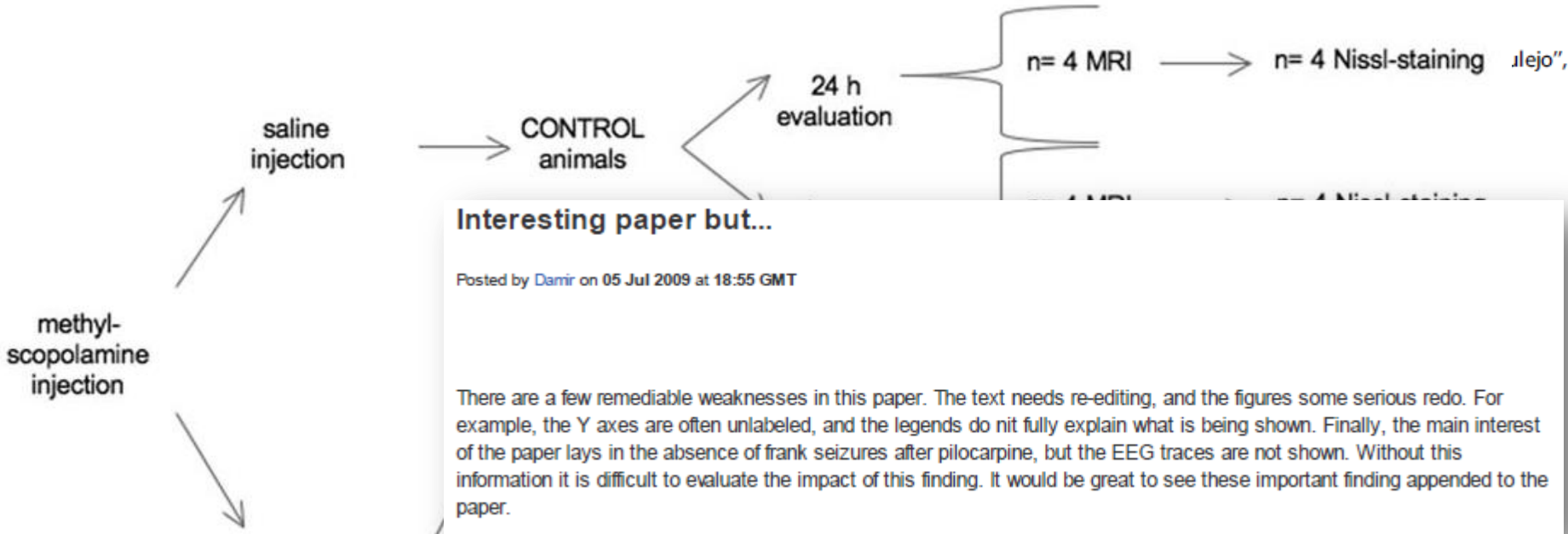
Does Pilocarpine-Induced Epilepsy in Adult Rats Require *Status epilepticus*?

Graciela Navarro Mora¹, Placido Bramanti², Francesco Osculati^{1,2}, Asmaa Chakir¹, Elena Nicolato¹,

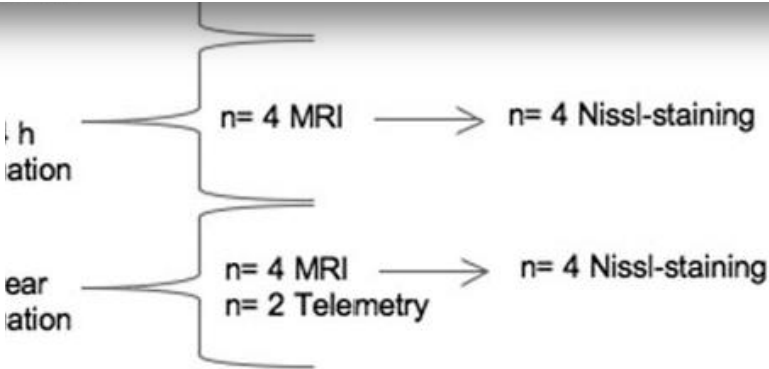
P

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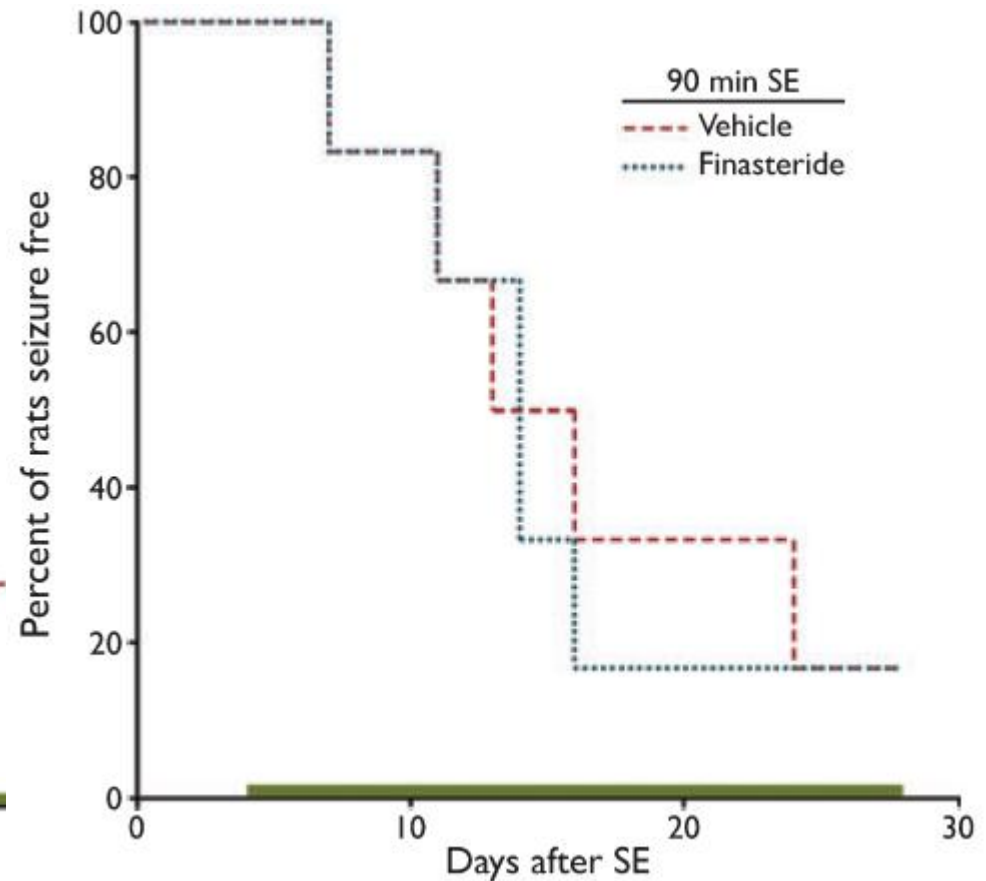
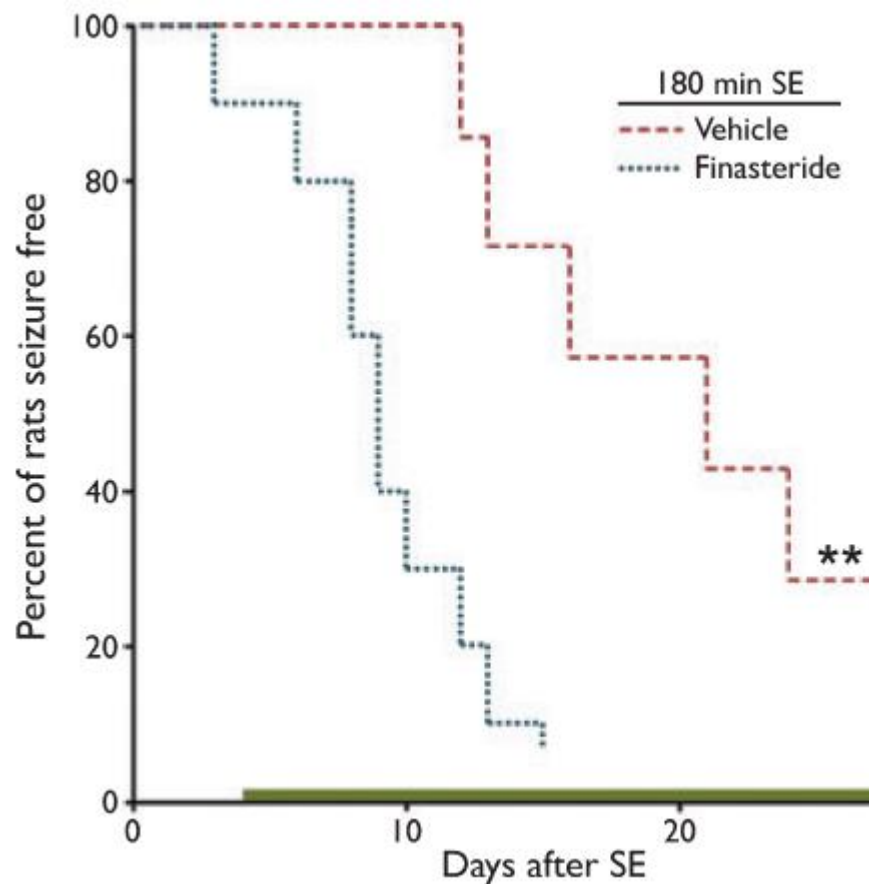
M



Concluding, in this experiment we have evidences for the first time, that pilocarpine injected rats without developing SE, can experience SRS after a long latency period resembling human pathology. For these reasons, we strong emphasize the importance of including these animals in the study of epileptogenesis modeling human epilepsy. It remains unclear how other mechanisms can contribute to the appearance of chronic seizures in the pilocarpine model, and further investigations are required.



Ci sono protocolli sperimentali nei quali non è possibile applicare le strategie proposte



ANALGESIA - ANESTESIA

Analgesici: non vi è un razionale per il loro impiego (Wolfensohn et al. 2013). Non vi sono indicazioni chiare che l'uso di analgesici possa influenzare in modo significativo i risultati attesi. In alcuni esperimenti è segnalato un effetto neuroprotettivo. La scelta della pilocarpina come farmaco per l'induzione di uno stato epilettico toglie ogni dubbio al riguardo dell'impiego degli analgesici, essendo la pilocarpina un potente analgesico (Naik et al., 1981; Gower 1987)

Anestetici: l'anestesia generale blocca ogni attività epilettica ed è, quindi, controindicata nello studio dei modelli animali di epilessia (Rasmussen et al. 1996).

CRISI EPILETTICHE SPONTANEE

Table 1

Clinical signs of seizure phases in human patients.

Pre-ictal	Ictal	Post-ictal
Sensory/thought:	Sensory/thought:	Sensory/thought:
• Deja vu • Jamais vu • Smells • Sounds • Tastes • Visual loss or blurring • Racing thoughts • Stomach feelings • Tingling feeling	• Black out • Confusion • Deafness/auditory hallucinations • Electric shock feeling • Smell • 'Spacing out' • 'Out of body experience' • Visual loss or blurring	• Memory loss • Impaired function, e.g. writing difficulty
Emotional:	Emotional:	Emotional:
• Fear/panic • Pleasant feeling	• Fear/panic	• Confusion • Depression and sadness • Fear • Frustration
Physical:	Physical:	Physical:
• Dizziness • Headache • Light headedness • Nausea • Numbness	• Breathing difficulty • Convulsion • Drooling • Eyelid fluttering, eyes rolling up • Falling down • Foot stomping, hand waving • Heart racing • Inability to move • Incontinence	• Bruising • Difficulty talking • Injuries • Sleeping • Exhaustion • Headache • Nausea • Pain • Thirst

General husbandry

Behavioural changes leading to anxiety, depression etc.

It is likely that animals experience little or no suffering *during* a seizure, as consciousness is lost and human patients commonly state that they do not consciously experience or recollect seizures. Human ac-

(Löscher, 2002). A significant source of suffering is likely to be the procedures (chemical or electrical) that are conducted to induce the seizures, rather than the seizures themselves. For example, peripheral side effects of pilocarpine include salivation, diarrhoea and dehydration, but this can be reduced with a peripherally restricted antimuscarinic such as methylscopolamine (Tetz et al., 2006; Turski et al., 1983). Tetanus toxin can cause paralysis and paresis but this can be avoided with careful administration and with appropriate dose selection. Lithium chloride can be used to reduce the seizure threshold, reduce the required dose of precipitant drug and therefore reduce the incidence and severity of side effects (Terry, Parzernik, & Nelson, 1990). Thus,

Refine housing and care so as to improve quality of life, e.g. house social animals in stable groups; provide refuges and nesting materials; review cage cleaning protocol to minimise disruption

Table 3

Potential adverse events that can result from convulsions and suggested refinements.

Potential adverse effect	How this may be refined
Disorientation	Refrain from cleaning the recovery cage/environment out for a certain time before or after convulsions for rodents so as not to disrupt olfactory cues that could be used for orientation, provide visual cues. A partial clean may be acceptable as long as sufficient items are left in the cage to provide olfactory cues (Meller et al., 2011)
Post-spasm pain	Ensure adequate post-ictal monitoring of the animals Administer muscle relaxant (e.g. diazepam), either on induction or in the case of repeated convulsions Monitor animals post-ictally for behavioural signs of pain and discomfort and administer analgesics suitable for the species; if post-ictal pain is likely to be a common occurrence, pre-emptive analgesia should be considered
Tooth grinding/ tongue biting	Provide soft foods or liquid nutrition in case it hurts for animals to eat
Injuries from falls	Provide enrichment that animals cannot climb onto, such as refuges with extended walls that prevent animals from climbing onto them; deep soft litter
Swallowing litter or nesting material	Remove if necessary, for the minimum period possible and substitute with a suitable soft cage floor material
Hypothermia if anti-convulsants are used	Provide heat blankets post-ictally Provide plenty of nesting material
Death	Apply humane end-points (e.g. limit to a single convulsion or limit maximum duration of convulsion) Use anti-convulsion treatment (e.g. diazepam or pheno-barbitone) to end convulsions Keep detailed records of mortality and associated causes where possible. Review methodology regularly to apply refinements wherever possible

Data sharing is a good strategy to reduce and avoid animal use, and the CARMEN (Code Analysis Repository & Modelling for e-Neuroscience; Smith et al., 2007) system for neuroscientists provides opportunities for epilepsy researchers to increase collaboration and share data. CARMEN³ is a virtual laboratory and data repository that is currently at a pilot stage, with 20 researchers from 11 UK universities involved. This initiative

Information relevant to animal welfare should therefore be included in publications arising from work using procedures involving epilepsy, seizures and convulsions. This would increase the implementation of refinement advances and reduce needless repetition of animal studies. There have been a number of recent publications, including the ARRIVE guidelines (Hooijmans, Leenaars, & Ritskes-Hoitinga, 2010; ILAR (Institute for Laboratory Animal Resources), 2011; Kilkenny, Browne, Cuthill, Emerson, & Altman, 2010; Osborne, Phillips, & Westwood, 2010) setting out frameworks for the minimum content that a published article should contain with this regard (these include welfare-related assessments and interventions that were carried out prior to, during, or after the experiment, any adverse events and any implications from the work that may have wider Three Rs benefits).

CONCLUSIONI:

- *Non è al momento possibile l'adozione di strategie di **Replacement** nel caso di progetti che abbiano come oggetto di studio l'**epilettogenesi** e la **farmacoresistenza**.*
- *L'adozione di interventi farmacologici e non consente di migliorare la sopravvivenza, portando ad una riduzione (**Reduction**) del numero di animali necessari per ottenere conclusioni statisticamente accettabili.*
- *La minor lesività del modello comporta una minor gravità delle conseguenze neurologiche e comportamentali (**Refinement**). Queste azioni di miglioramento devono necessariamente riguardare anche la stabulazione.*