

# Narcolepsy and Hypersomnia

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With thanks to Neil Freedman, MD  
and David Rye, MD, PhD



Once Upon a Time.....



Sleepy Patient

# As the Story Progressed...



Sleepy Patient



Narcolepsy



Idiopathic  
Hypersomnia

Kinda  
sorta  
sleepy

Tired  
with a  
blotchy  
rash

Extremely  
fatigued  
but not  
really  
"tired"

Falling  
asleep  
driving, but  
not while  
watching TV

Sleeping  
between  
10 - 10.5  
hours /  
day

Arthritis  
patients  
who have  
no energy

Red-heads  
who can't  
stay  
awake

Ex  
fa  
b

Arthritis  
patients  
have  
energy

Tired  
lounge  
singers

Lack of  
energy &  
precisely  
64% N2  
sleep

dr  
n  
wa

red  
lounge  
singers

Ex-NFL  
linemen  
with sleep  
inertia

Looks  
sleepy, but  
not really,  
unless you  
listen to the  
spouse

Only tired  
after  
eating  
pizza with  
GERD

Dog  
owners  
sleepier  
than their  
pets

Apnea  
with 2+  
MSLT  
REMs

30-50  
arousals  
from sleep  
per hour

Left-  
handed  
sleepy  
shift-  
workers

Listless  
men  
married to  
energetic

Octogenar  
ians with  
diurnal  
sleep  
attacks

Sleepy  
sleep  
doctors

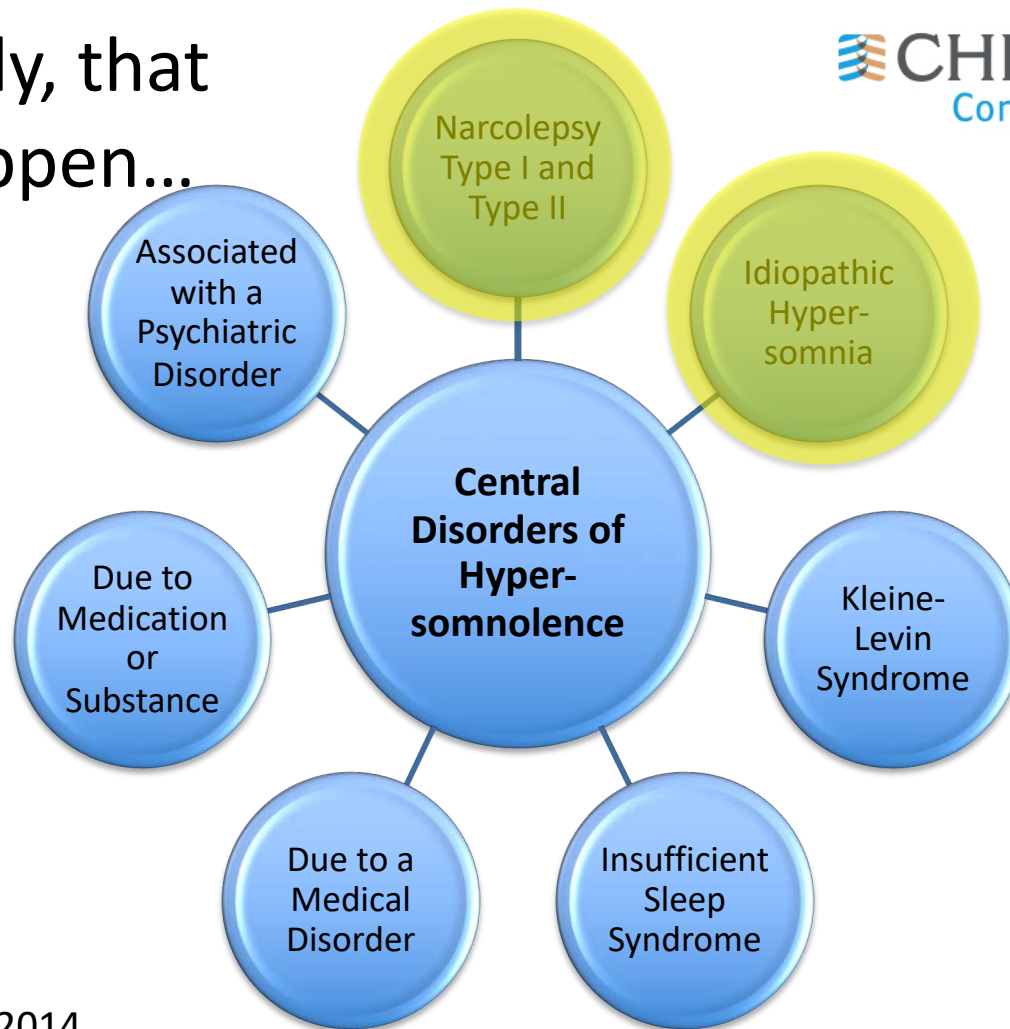
Basic cable  
reality  
show stars  
with

Residents  
of  
Nebraska  
who can't

"Two and a  
half men"  
starts with  
comorbid  
sleep  
drunkenness



Fortunately, that  
didn't happen...



# Case

- A 21 year old woman presents with long standing daytime sleepiness.
- She also reports intermittent lower extremity weakness that may be associated with laughter, though you are not able to reproduce it in clinic
- She regularly sleeps 8-9 hours per night and has no symptoms of OSAS, or insomnia
- Medications: None
- Exam: Normal
- An overnight PSG demonstrates:
  - TST 8.5 hours
  - REM latency of 70 minutes
  - No abnormalities are observed
- A multiple sleep latency test (MSLT) performed the following day demonstrates :
  - Mean sleep latency (MSL) of 6.5 minutes and 1 sleep onset REM period during the first nap



## Question:

What other test would be most helpful to help confirm a diagnosis of narcolepsy?

- A. HLA DQB1\*0602
- B. MRI of the brain
- C. CSF hypocretin 1 (Orexin A) level
- D. Maintenance of wakefulness test (MWT)

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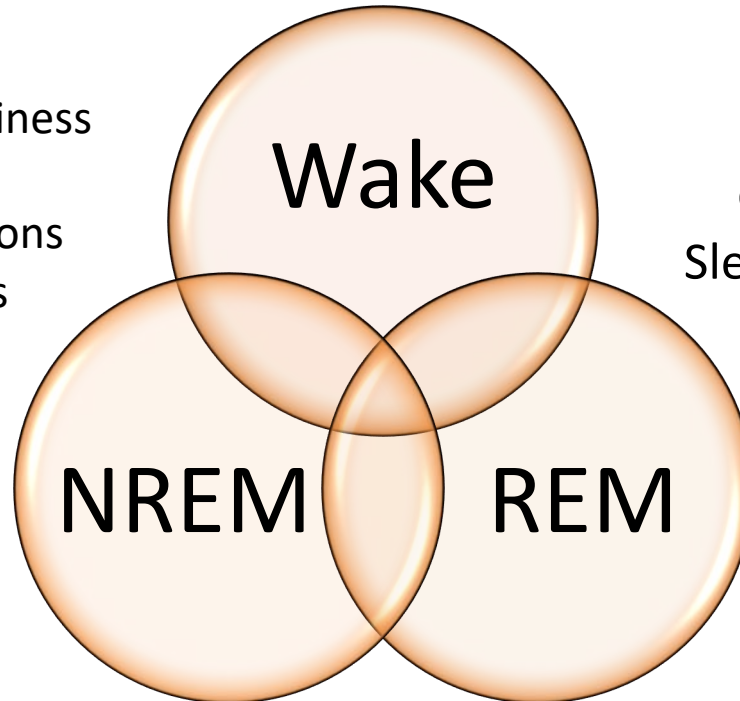
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- B. MRI of the brain
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# Narcolepsy

- Hallmark symptoms of Type 1 narcolepsy:
  - Excessive daytime sleepiness
  - Cataplexy (average time to onset from sleepiness ~ 4 years)
  - Hallucinations upon falling sleep or awakening from sleep (hypnagogic hallucinations)
  - Brief episodes of total paralysis upon falling asleep or awakening from sleep (sleep paralysis)
  - Disrupted sleep
- EDS is the most common initial symptom, occurring alone in ½ of patients
- >60% of patients present with only 1 hallmark symptom
- <10% of patients present with all 4 hallmark symptoms

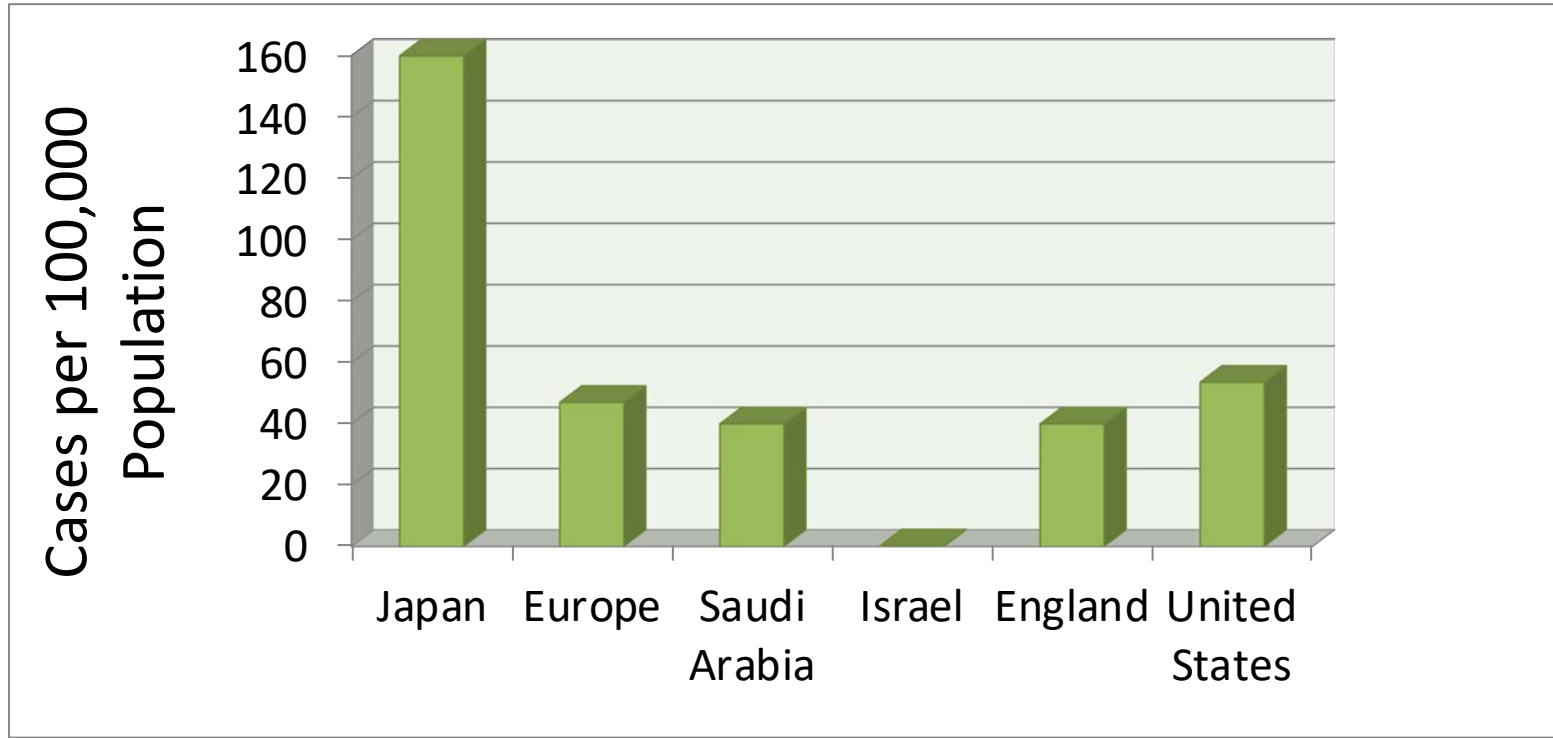
# Many Symptoms of Narcolepsy Stem from the Loss of Sleep-Wake Boundaries

Excessive Daytime Sleepiness  
Disrupted Sleep  
Hypnagogic Hallucinations  
Automatic Behaviors

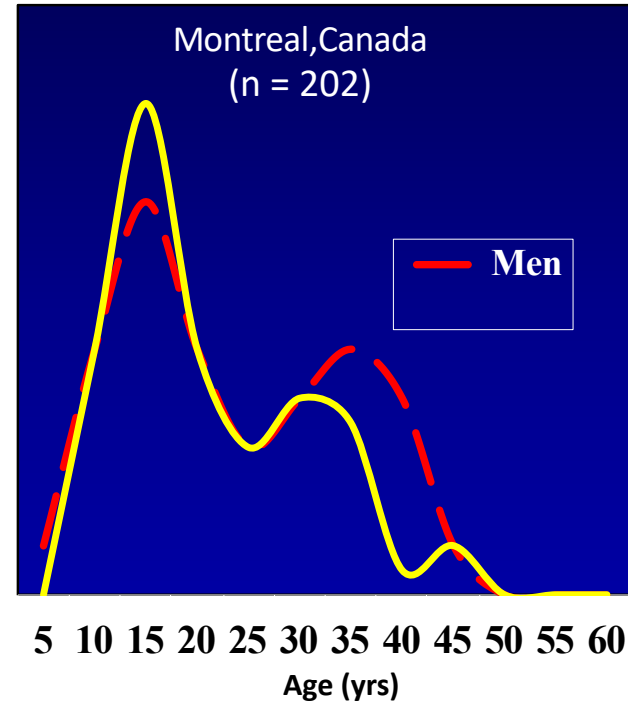
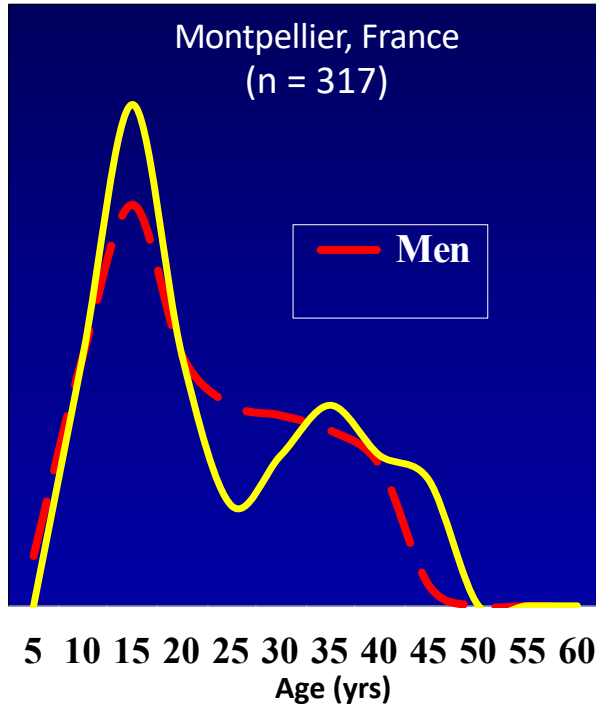


Cataplexy  
Sleep Paralysis

# Narcolepsy Prevalence Varies among Populations



# Symptom Onset is Biphasic



# Excessive Daytime Sleepiness

- Universal and most disabling symptom
- Typically the first symptom
- Transiently improved by nighttime sleep and daytime naps
  - As opposed to idiopathic hypersomnia
- May occur suddenly (sleep attacks)
- Despite EDS, the total sleep time per 24 hour period is similar to healthy adults

# Cataplexy

- Sudden loss of bilateral muscle tone (partial or generaliz
- Full consciousness maintained during episode
  - Reflexes absent during episode
- Almost always associated with:
  - HLA DQB1-0602 + CSF hypocretin-1 deficiency
- Typically presents years (mean 1 to 5 yrs) after the onset of daytime sleepiness
- Typically triggered by emotion (not always)
  - Laughter most common
- Present in 60% to 90% of narcoleptics
- Virtually pathognomonic for narcolepsy
- Duration = Seconds to minutes
- Recovery is immediate and complete



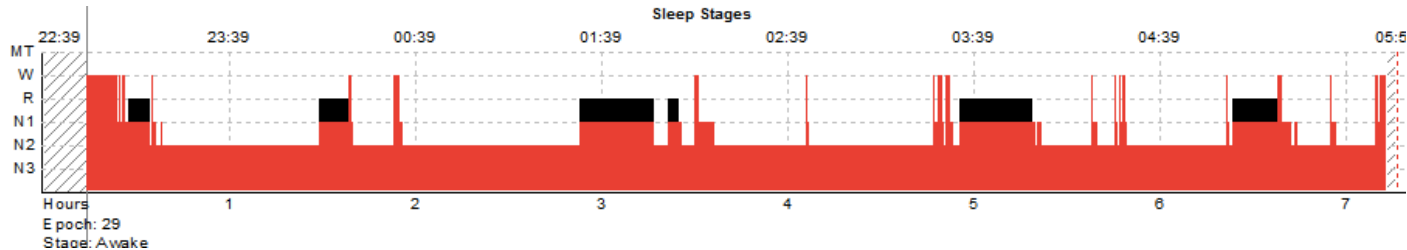


# Clinical Features are inadequate by themselves to diagnose Type 1 narcolepsy

Symptom	Sensitive	Specific
CATAPLEXY	NO	YES
SLEEP PARALYSIS	NO	NO
HYPNAGOGIC/HYPNOPOMPIC HALLUCINATIONS	NO	NO
SLEEPINESS	YES	NO
DISRUPTED SLEEP	YES	NO

# Diagnostic Criteria for Narcolepsy Type 1

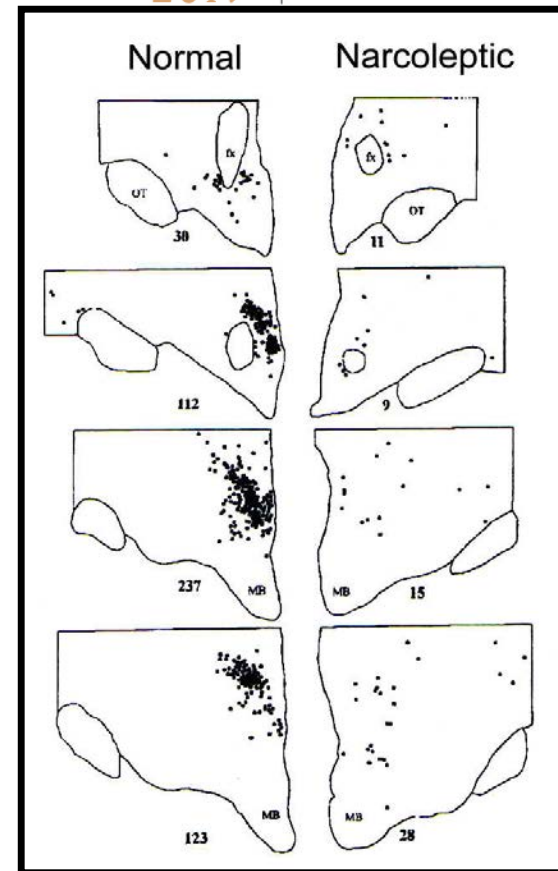
- Daily sleepiness for  $\geq 3$  months
- The presence of one of the following:
  - Cataplexy AND a MSL  $\leq 8$  minutes with  $\geq 2$  SOREMP on the MSLT
    - A SOREMP (within 15 minutes of sleep onset) on the preceding night's PSG may replace one of the SOREMPs on the MSLT



- CSF hypocretin-1 concentration  $\leq 110$  pg/mL, or  $< 1/3$  of mean values obtained in normal subjects

# Reduced Number of Hypocretin Neurons in Narcolepsy with Cataplexy

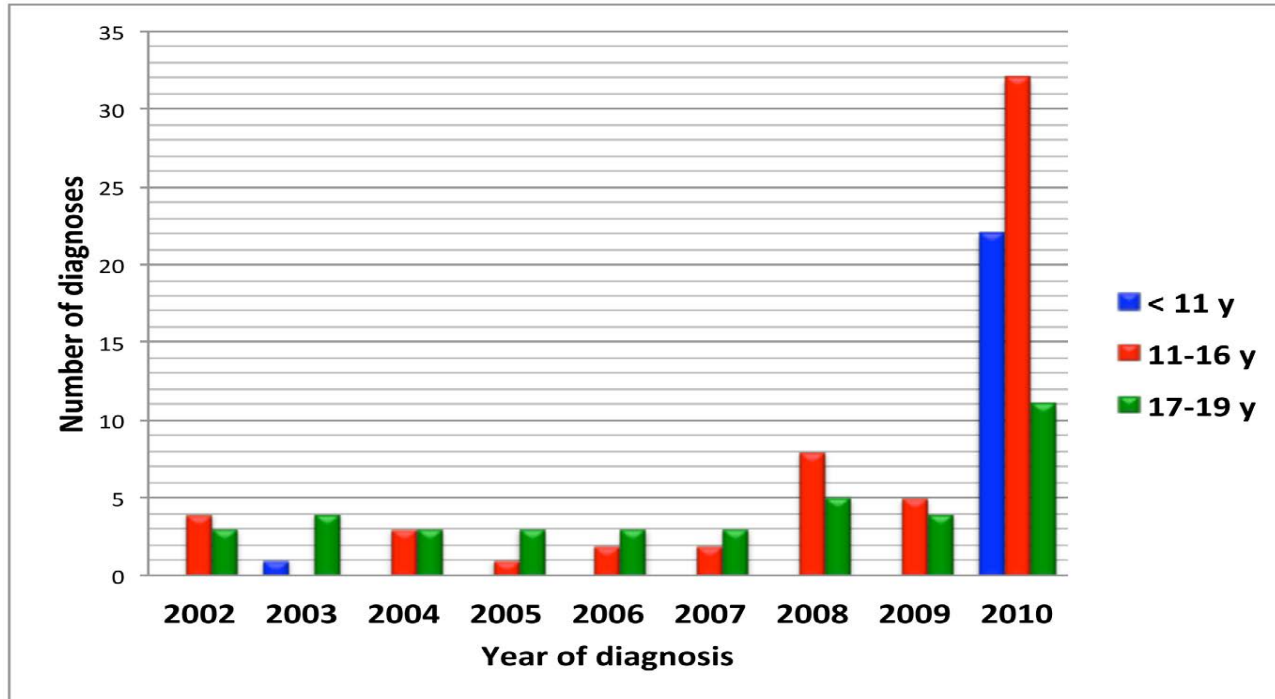
- Specific loss of HCRT cells in the posterior and lateral hypothalamus
  - No significant difference in the number of melanin-concentrating hormone (MCH) neurons
- Presence of gliosis in HCRT cell region most consistent with a degenerative process
  - No clear evidence for immune activation



# Mechanism of Disease and Hypocretin Deficiency Not Clear

- Possibly genetic
  - DQB1\*0602 haplotype in 90% of narcolepsy 1
    - Only 25% of affected monozygotic twins concordant
    - Most familial cases (-) for HLA DQB1\*0602
- Possibly autoimmune
  - Onset greatest in the spring / winter related viral infection
  - Association with polymorphisms in T cell receptor alpha genes

# What causes hypocretin cell loss?



# What causes hypocretin cell loss – molecular mimicry and H1N1?

Increased Incidence and Clinical Picture of  
Childhood Narcolepsy following the 2009 H1N1  
Pandemic Vaccination Campaign in Finland  
Markku Partinen et al. PLOS One (2011)

Narcolepsy Onset Is Seasonal and  
Increased following the 2009 H1N1  
Pandemic in China  
Fang Han et al. Annals of Neurology (2011)

# CNS HCRT-1 Deficiency is Highly Specific for HLA+ Narcolepsy Type 1

- Sensitivity = 87%
- Specificity = 99%
- PPV and NPV = 96%
- Normal levels in other sleep disorders
  - OSA, RLS, insomnia, idiopathic hypersomnia
- May be useful diagnostically for atypical presentations, non-diagnostic MSLT, children and patients on antidepressants

# Diagnostic Criteria for Narcolepsy Type 2

- Daily periods of sleepiness for  $\geq 3$  months
- A MSL  $\leq 8$  minutes with  $\geq 2$  SOREMP on the MSLT
  - A SOREMP (within 15 minutes of sleep onset) on the preceding night's PSG may replace one of the SOREMPs on the MSLT
  - Polysomnographically indistinguishable for Narcolepsy Type I
- **Cataplexy is absent**
  - **CSF hypocretin-1 concentration,  $> 110$  pg/mL, or  $> 1/3$  of mean values obtained in normal subjects, or not measured**
  - The hypersomnolence and or MSLT findings are not better explained by other causes



# Narcolepsy Type 2

- Less prevalent than narcolepsy with cataplexy
  - 15% to 25% of diagnosed narcoleptics
- Association with HLA DQB1\*0602 less than with narcolepsy type 1:
  - 45% vs 90%
- CSF hypocretin 1 levels normal
  - Underlying pathophysiology of most patients with narcolepsy type 2 not known; ? A manifestation of several underlying pathologies?
- Other:
  - If cataplexy develops later or CSF hypocretin 1 levels are found to be deficient at a later date, reclassify as narcolepsy type 1

# Narcolepsy Treatment

- Goal of therapy is to treat symptoms
  - Sleepiness
  - Cataplexy, if present
- Stimulant therapy typically improves, but does not resolve daytime sleepiness in many/most patients with narcolepsy

# Treatment of Type 1 Narcolepsy

## Behavioral Strategies

- Short, regularly scheduled naps
- Consistent sleep / wake schedule
- Exercise for at least 20 minutes per day at least 4 or 5 hours before bedtime
  - Regular exercise for prevention of obesity important in children with narcolepsy
- Avoid alcohol, caffeine and nicotine for several hours before bedtime

Mullington and Broughton. *Sleep*. 1993;16:444-456.

Rogers et al. *Sleep*. 2001;24:385-391.

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Narcolepsy Fact Sheet. Available at: [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/narcolepsy/detail\\_narcolepsy.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/narcolepsy/detail_narcolepsy.htm). Accessed July 17, 2007.

# Treatment of Type 1 Narcolepsy

## Pharmacologic Interventions

- **Excessive Daytime Sleepiness**

- Modafinil (Provigil<sup>®</sup>) and Armodafinil (Nuvigil<sup>®</sup>)\*
- Amphetamine /dextroamphetamine (Adderall<sup>®</sup>)/ methamphetamine (Desoxyn<sup>®</sup>)\*
- Methylphenidate\* (Ritalin<sup>®</sup>; Concerta<sup>®</sup>)
- Sodium oxybate\* (Xyrem<sup>®</sup>)
- Selegiline (Emsam<sup>®</sup>)

- **Cataplexy**

- Sodium oxybate\*
- Selegiline
- Serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs)
- Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)
- Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)

\* Approved by the US FDA for the treatment of narcolepsy.

Billiard et al. *Eur J Neurol.* 2006;13:1035-1048.

Littner et al. *Sleep.* 2001;24:451-466.

# Modafinil

- Recommended as a standard by AASM for the treatment of daytime sleepiness
  - Supported by 14 studies
- Dosing: 100 to 400 mg daily
- Split-day dosing may be better for late day symptoms
- Half life = 15 hours
- May interact with birth control pills
  - Induces several cytochrome P450 enzymes
  - Need to recommend alternative birth control methods during treatment
- Pregnancy class C
- Should be taken without food
- Headache (10-26%)
- Nervousness/anxiety (3-20%)
- Nausea (5-11%)
- Dry mouth (3-7%)
- Insomnia (3-6%)
- HTN risk low
  - 1 study of OSA increased BP by 4%
- Stevens Johnson

# Armodafinil

- Enantiomer of modafinil with longer half life
- FDA approved for the treatment of narcolepsy
- Dosing 150 to 250 mg once daily
- Data limited to 2 RCTs
  - Improved MWT, ESS and CGIC vs placebo
  - MWT increased 1.3 to 2.6 minutes vs placebo
- Side effects similar to modafinil
  - Headache most common (16 to 28%)
  - Dose related

# Sodium Oxybate

- Recommended as a standard for EDS/Cataplexy
- Mechanism: GABA-B and own receptors
  - Actual mechanism in narcolepsy not known
- Schedule III
- Divided dosing 4.5 to 9 grams/night
  - One dose at bedtime, another 3-4 hours later
- Important:
  - Improvements are dose dependent
  - Tolerance typically does not develop
  - No significant adverse events upon abrupt discontinuation
  - No withdrawal or rebound cataplexy
- Pregnancy category C
- Contraindications:
  - Succinic semialdehyde dehydrogenase deficiency
  - Sedative hypnotics, ETOH, CNS depressants
- Adverse Effects: (dose related)
  - Most common: Dizziness (12-34%), nausea (6-34%) and headache (23%)
  - Other: Enuresis, vomiting, anorexia, backpain, edema, acute confusional state, falls, elevated LFTs, weight loss
- Very low risk of abuse, misuse and dependence

# Treatments for Cataplexy

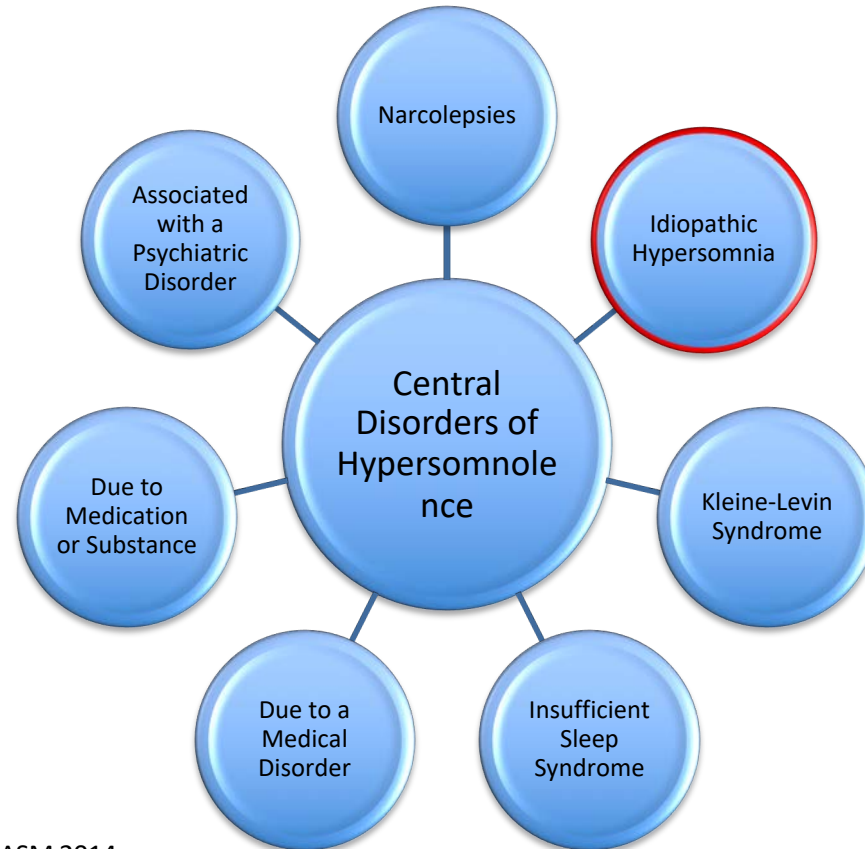
2019

<b>Agent/Class</b>	<b>Daily Dose Range</b>	<b>AASM Recommendation</b>
<b>Sodium Oxybate</b>	<b>4.5 to 9 grams</b>	<b>Standard</b>
<b>Tricyclics</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Guideline</b>
<b>SSRIs</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Guideline</b>
<b>Venlafaxine</b>	<b>75 – 375 mg</b>	<b>Guideline</b>
<b>Reboxetine</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>Guideline</b>
<b>Selegiline</b>	<b>5 -10 mg</b>	<b>Option</b>

Morgenthaler, TI et al. Sleep 2007;30(12):1705-1711

Wise, MS et al. Sleep 2007;30(12):1712-1727





# Diagnostic Criteria for Idiopathic Hypersomnia

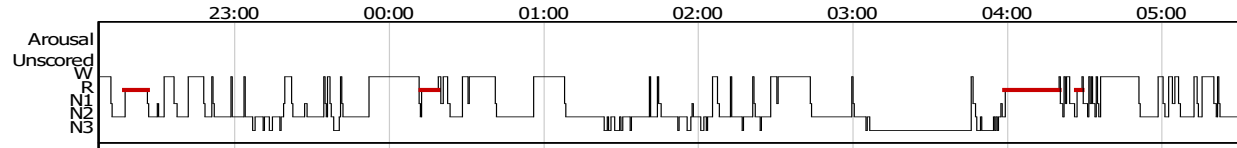
- Daily periods of sleepiness for  $\geq 3$  months
- Cataplexy is absent
- The MSLT demonstrates  $< 2$  SOREMPs or no SOREMPs if the REM latency on the preceding PSG was  $\leq 15$  minutes
- The presence of at least one of the following:
  - The MSLT demonstrates a MSL of  $\leq 8$  minutes or
  - Total 24 hour sleep time is  $> 660$  minutes on 24 hour PSG monitoring or by wrist actigraphy in association with a sleep log (averaged over at least 7 days without sleep restriction)
- The hypersomnolence and or MSLT findings are not better explained by other causes (including insufficient sleep syndrome)

# Idiopathic Hypersomnia

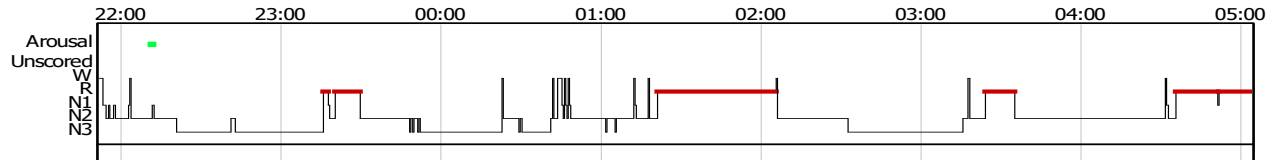
- Previously classified into “with and without long sleep time” – no longer
- Prevalence unknown
- Prolonged and severe sleep inertia common
- Unrefreshing naps and nighttime sleep periods
- A high sleep efficiency (> 90%) on the PSG is common
- No association with HLA DQB1\*0602 or other HLA
- Normal CSF hypocretin 1 levels
- Family history in minority (34%)
- Spontaneous resolution described, but uncommon (14-25%)

# PSG of Narcolepsy vs IH

## Narcolepsy Type I



## Idiopathic Hypersomnia

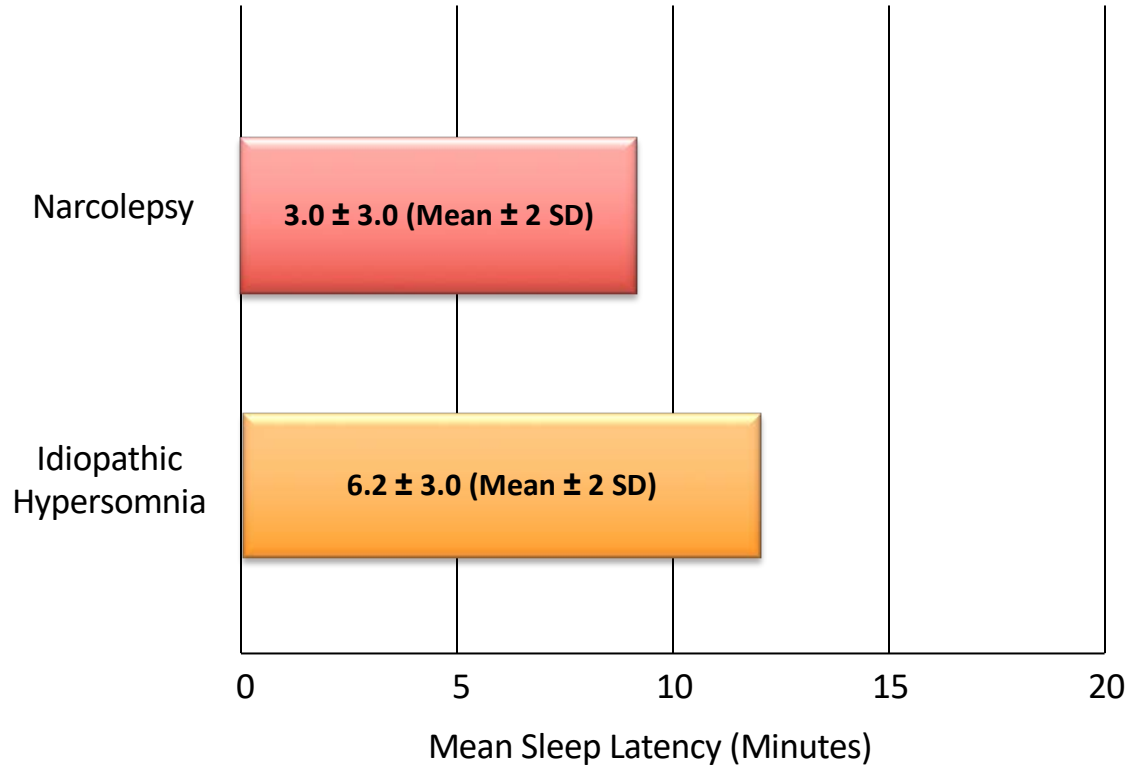


# MSLT:MSL Greater in IH than Narcolepsy

Thailand

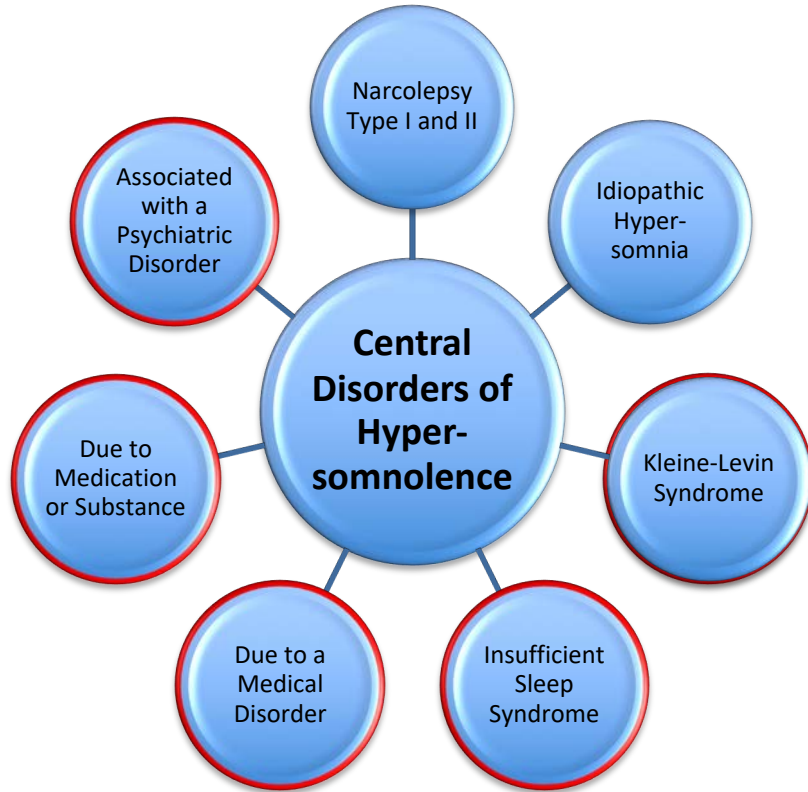
Bangkok | 10-12 April

2019



# Idiopathic Hypersomnia: Treatment

- Treatment approach similar to EDS with narcolepsy
- No FDA approved drugs for IH
- Modafinil, armodafinil
- Amphetamines and methylphenidate
  
- Possible role for clarithromycin or flumazenil



# Question

- Which one of the following statements is TRUE?
  - A) Narcolepsy Type II is a disease whose pathophysiology has been well-characterized
  - B) The number of sleep-onset REM periods (SoREMPs) can be used to distinguish Narcolepsy Type I from Narcolepsy Type II
  - C) Patients with Idiopathic Hypersomnia tend to be sleepier (and more refractory to therapy) than patients with Narcolepsy Type I or Narcolepsy Type II
  - D) There are no stimulant therapies that have been deemed to be safe in pregnancy



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  - D) There are no stimulant therapies that have been deemed to be safe in pregnancy

	Type 1 Narcolepsy	Idiopathic Hypersomnia
<b>Prevalence</b>	1: 2,000	Unknown – rare (?) (1:400) ?
<b>Age of Onset</b>	Pre-pubertal Teens Twenties	Pre-Pubertal Teens Twenties Adulthood
<b>Course</b>	Modestly Progressive Plateaus in 30s	More likely progressive
<b>Remissions</b>	NONE	RARE (15%)
<b>Heritability</b>	Minimal (4 x risk to 1 <sup>o</sup> relative)	Modest (~ 1/3 rd of subjects with 1 <sup>o</sup> relative)
<b>Treatments</b>	Wake promoting agents (e.g., psychostimulants; modafinil; Xyrem <sup>®</sup> )	Wake promoting agents, possible role for sleep “lytics” (e.g., <b>GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor antagonists</b> ) ?

	Type 1 Narcolepsy	Idiopathic Hypersomnia
Excessive Daytime Sleepiness	Imperative	Not as imperative
Daytime Sleep Duration	Minutes	Hours
Daytime Naps	With REM-sleep (dreams)	ABSENT REM-sleep
Cataplectic Attacks	Most cases	ABSENT
REM-sleep dyscontrol	Many cases	RARE
Dampened sensorium or cognition	Exceptional	COMMON
Night-time Sleep	Normal Length & Restless	Prolonged & Very deep
Awakening from Sleep	Spontaneous	LABORIOUS

EST<sup>®</sup>  
 Progress  
 2019

Thailand  
 Bangkok | 10-12 April

	Type 1 Narcolepsy	Type 2 Narcolepsy	Idiopathic Hypersomnia
Excessive Daytime Sleepiness	3 months	3 months	3 months
Cataplexy	YES (60-95%)	NO	NO
MSL < 8 minutes	YES	YES	YES (40%) / NO (60%)
≥ 2 SOREMPs	YES	YES	NO ≤ 1 SOREMP
CSF Hypocretin < 110 pg/ml	YES	NO	NO
660' of total sleep time (PSG + MSLT)	NO (normal)	Some (?)	YES
660' average total Sleep time 1 week	NO (normal)	N/A (?)	YES

Thank you for your kind  
attention!