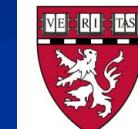


# **Raw and Quantitative EEG for Identification of Ischemia**

Susan T. Herman, MD  
Assistant Professor of Neurology  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Harvard Medical School  
Boston, MA



Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center



A teaching hospital of  
Harvard Medical School

# Disclosures

- None relevant to this presentation
- Scientific Advisory Board
  - Eisai Inc.
  - Biotie, Inc.
- Research
  - UCB Pharma
  - Acorda Therapeutics
  - Epilepsy Therapy Development Project
  - Sage Pharmaceuticals
  - NeuroPace, Inc.
  - Pfizer

# Detection of Ischemia

- During and after vascular neurosurgical or interventional neuroradiology procedures
- After subarachnoid hemorrhage
- In patients with hemodynamic lesions and borderline flow
- In other patients at risk for in-hospital acute ischemia

Hirsch LJ. J Clin Neurophysiol 2004;21:332-340.  
Herman ST et al. J Clin Neurophysiol 2015; 32: 87-95.

# Cerebral Ischemia

- EEG changes occur within 5 minutes of acute ischemia
  - Superior to current imaging techniques
  - Reversible stage

ml/100g/min	EEG change	Reversibility
35-70	Normal	No injury
25-35	Loss of beta	Reversible
18-25	Theta slowing	Reversible
12-18	Delta slowing	Reversible
< 8-10	Suppression	Irreversible

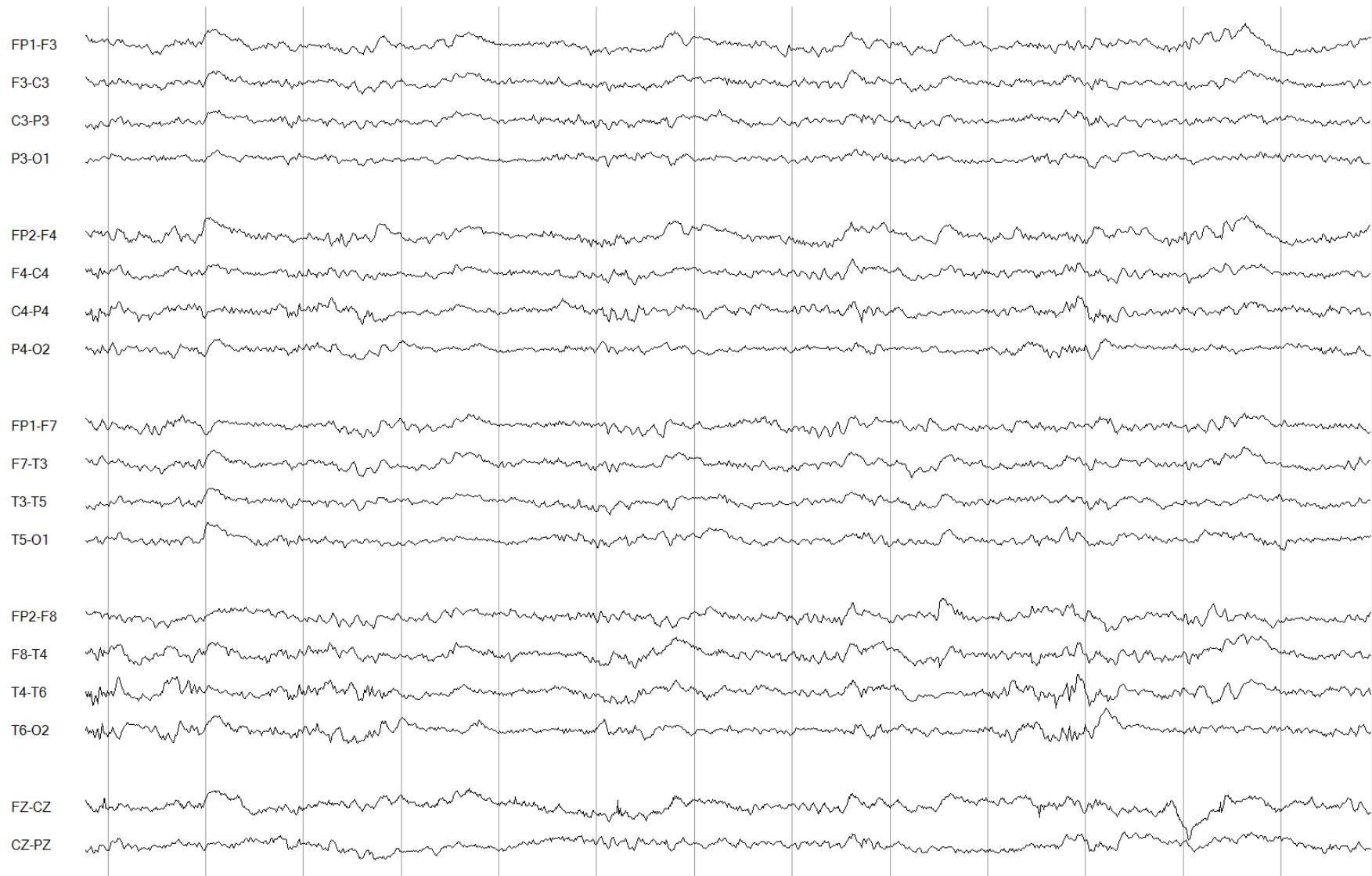
Astrup et al. Stroke 1981;12:723-725.  
Jordan KG. J Clin Neurophysiol 2004;21:341-352.

# EEG and Cerebral Ischemia

- Intraoperative monitoring during carotid artery occlusion
  - EEG can detect important changes in CBF
- Hemispheric EEG slowing
  - Correlates with moderate to severe reductions in CBF on stable Xenon CT
- Mean dominant EEG frequency
  - 6.5 Hz correlated with CBF 33 to 39 ml/100 g/min
  - 7.8 Hz correlated with CBF 47 ml/100 g/min

Vespa et al., EEG Clin Neurophys 1997;103:607-615  
Sundt et al., Mayo Clin Proc 1981;56:533-543

# Carotid Endarterectomy: Baseline



# Carotid Endarterectomy: Intra-op

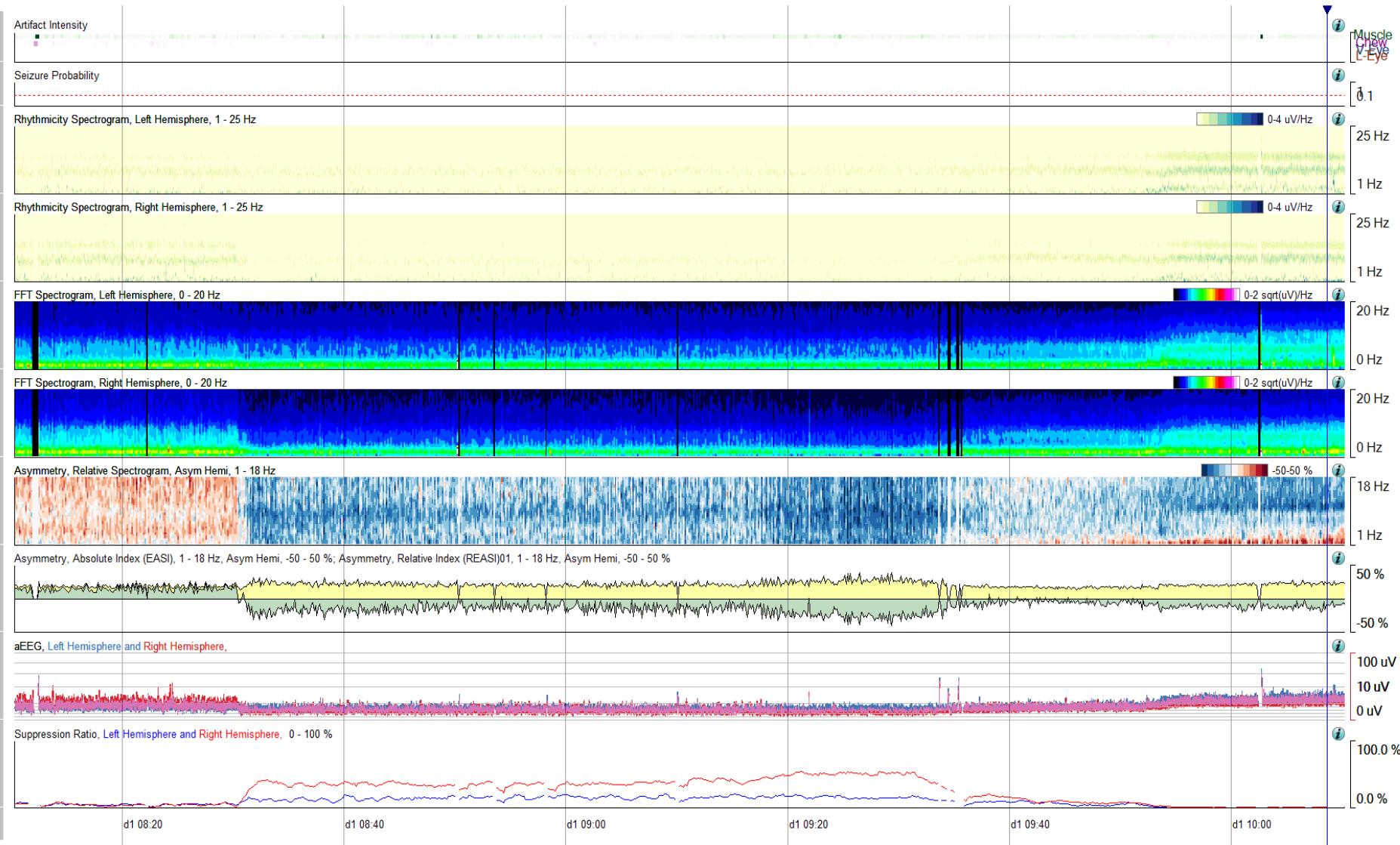


# Carotid Endarterectomy: Post-CEA



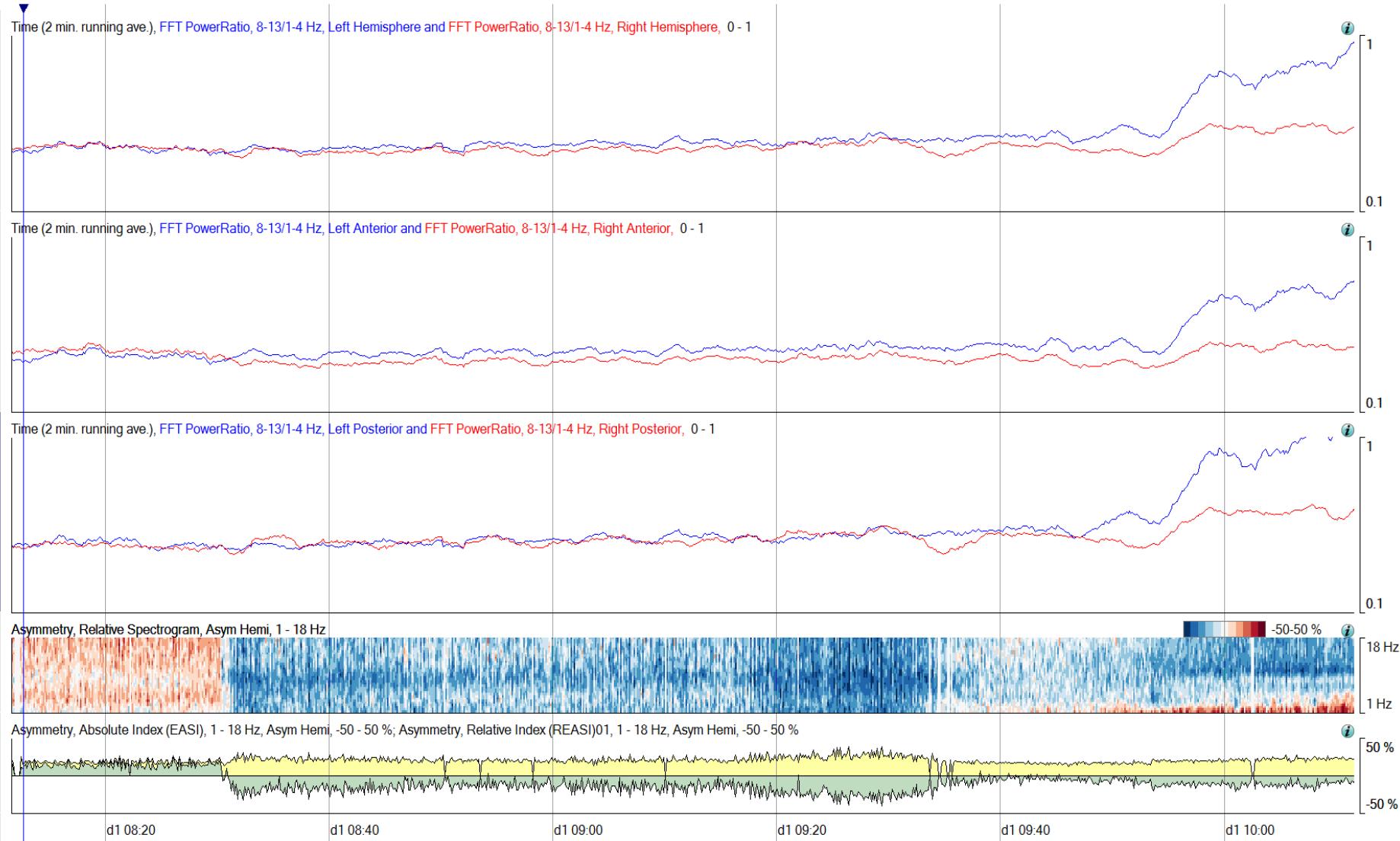
# Carotid Endarterectomy: Trends

Artifact Reduction ON



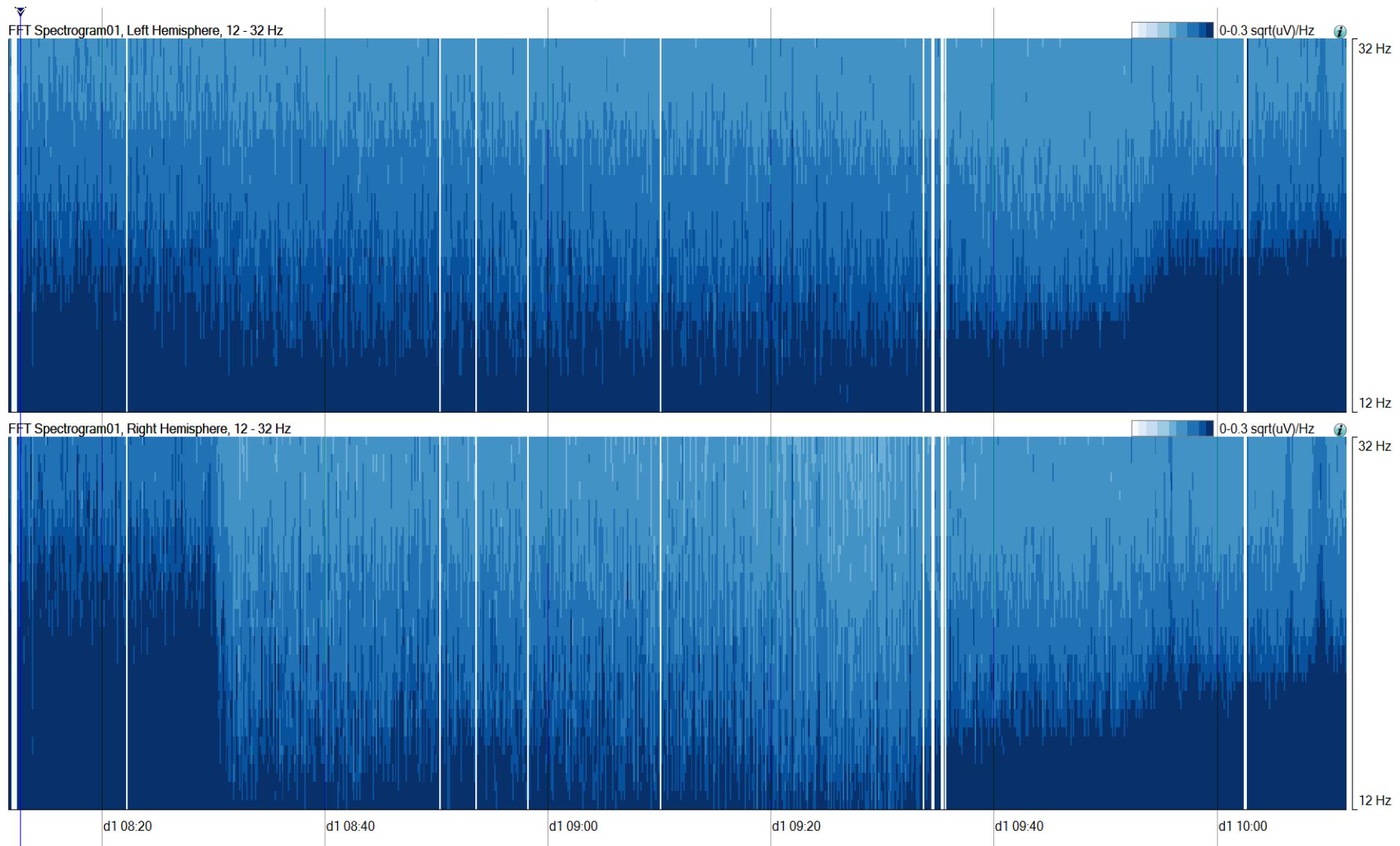
# Carotid Endarterectomy: Alpha-Delta

Artifact Reduction ON

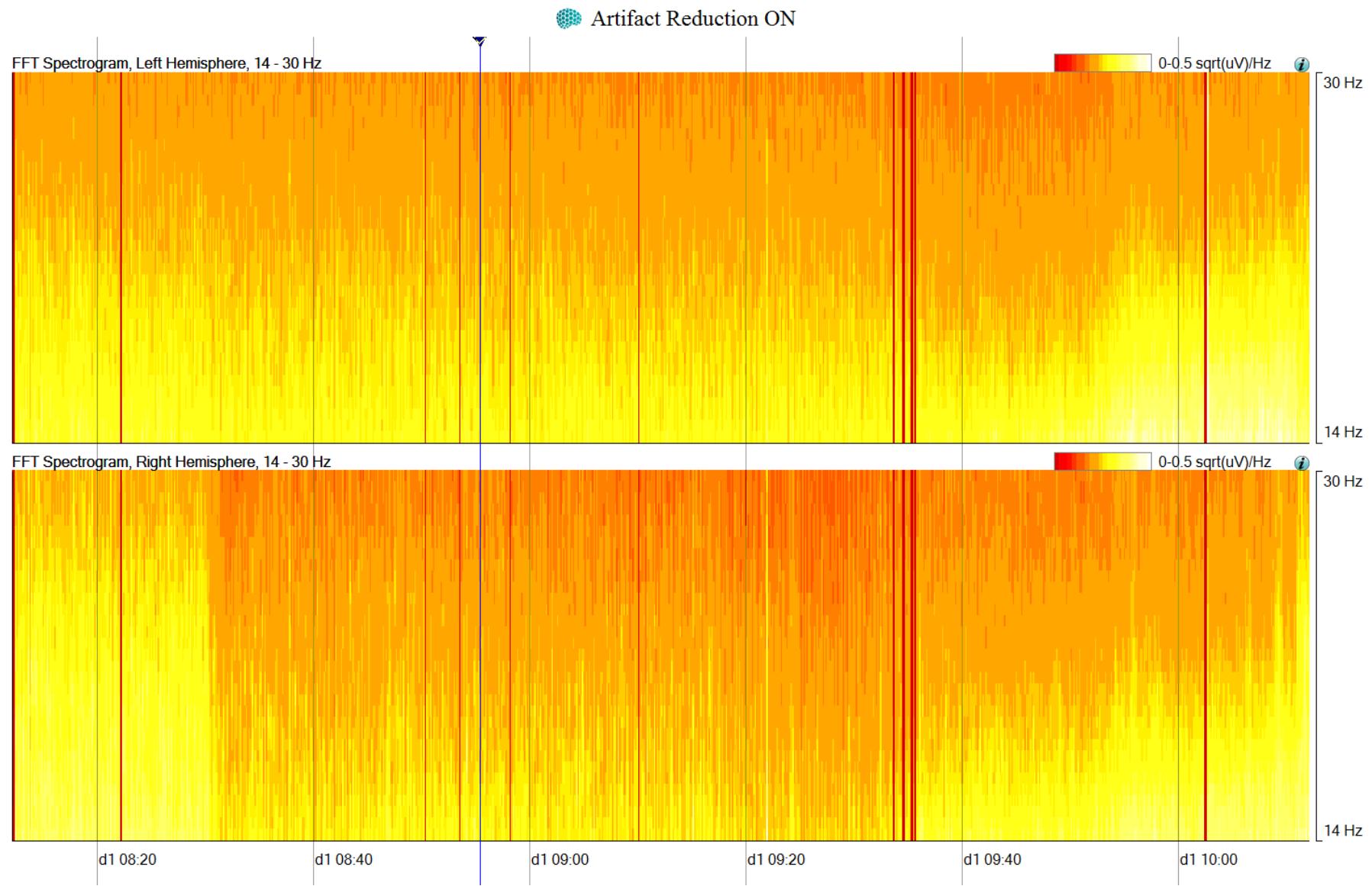


# Beta Asymmetry

Artifact Reduction ON

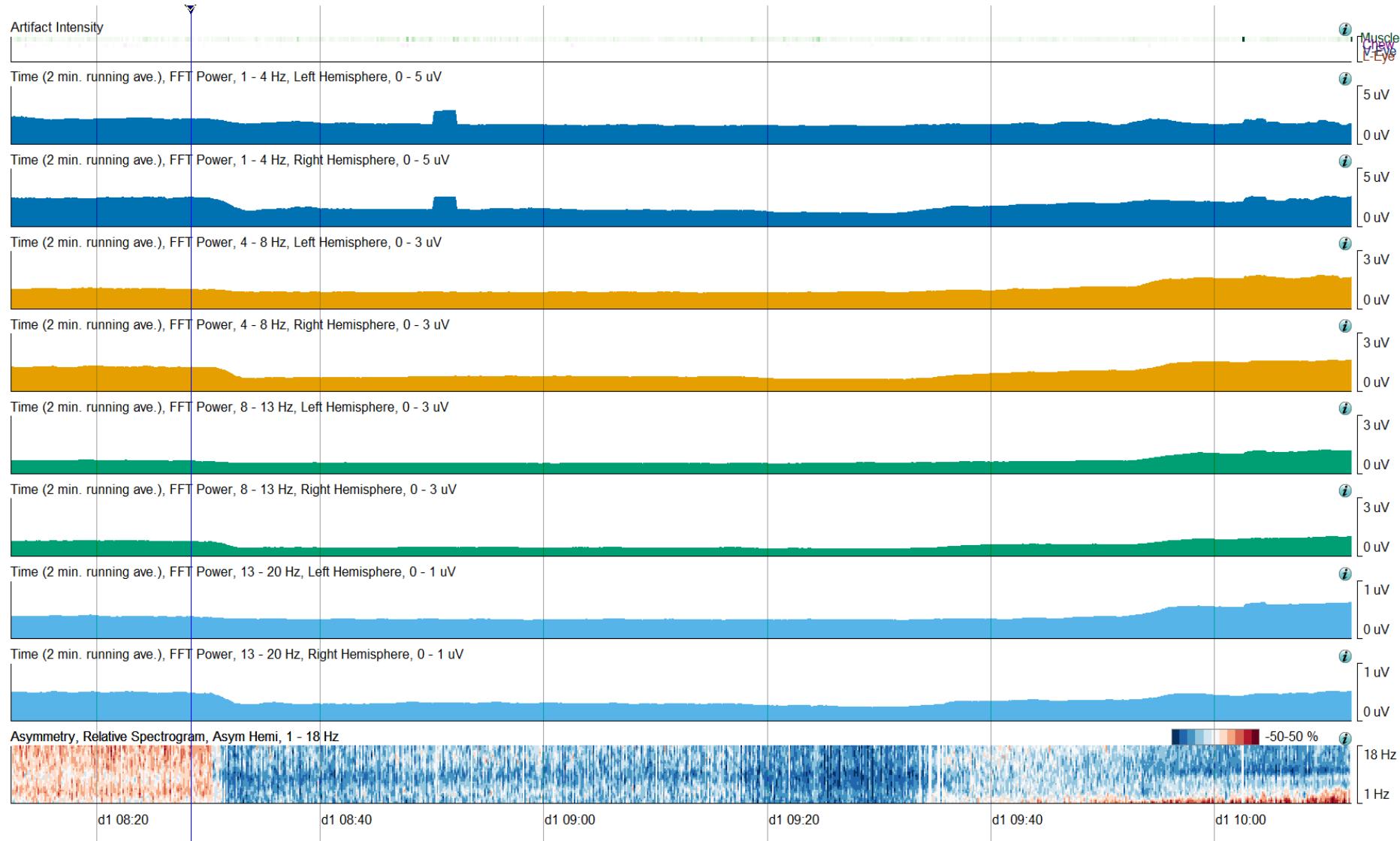


# Beta Asymmetry

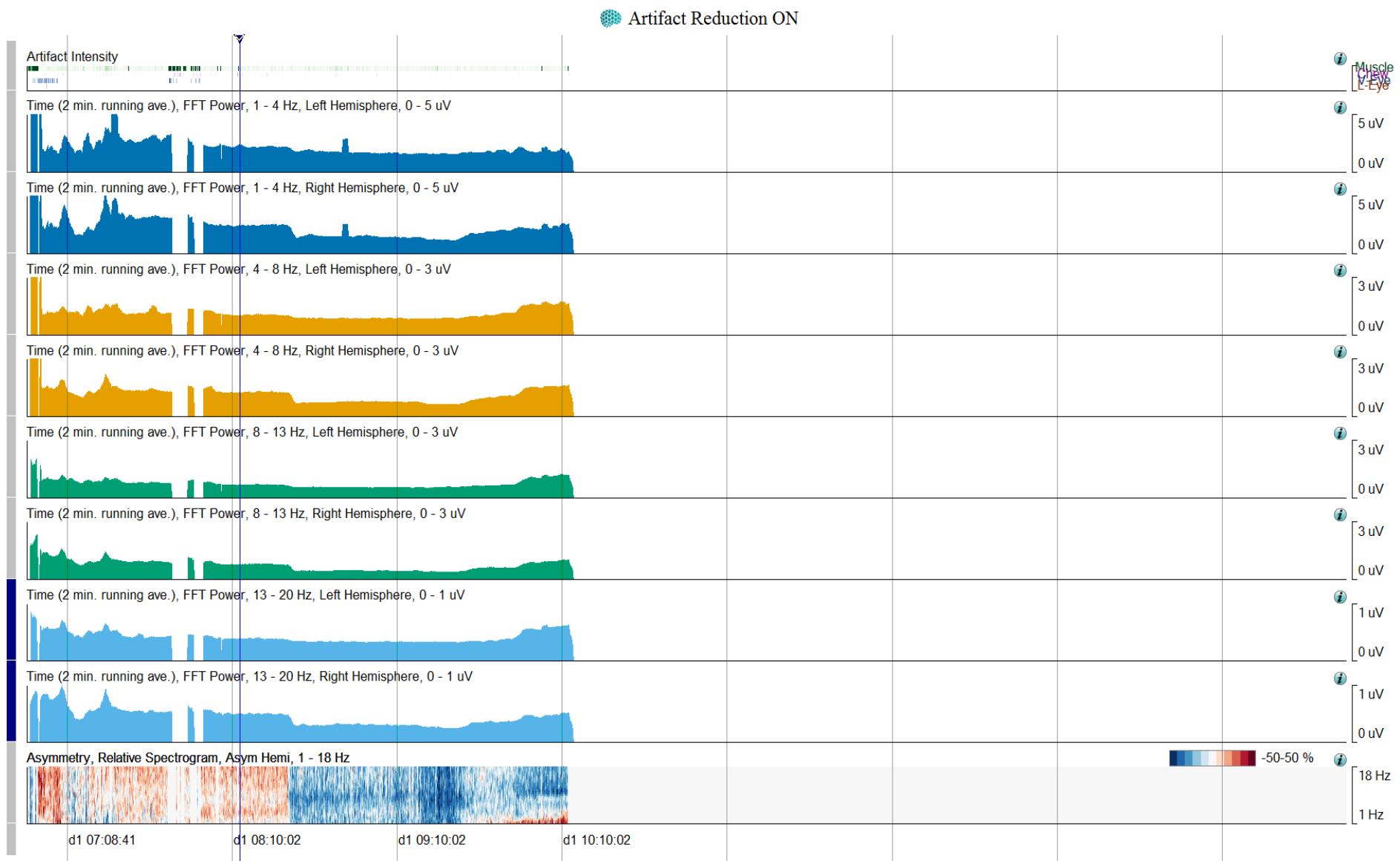


# Carotid Endarterectomy: Ischemia

Artifact Reduction ON

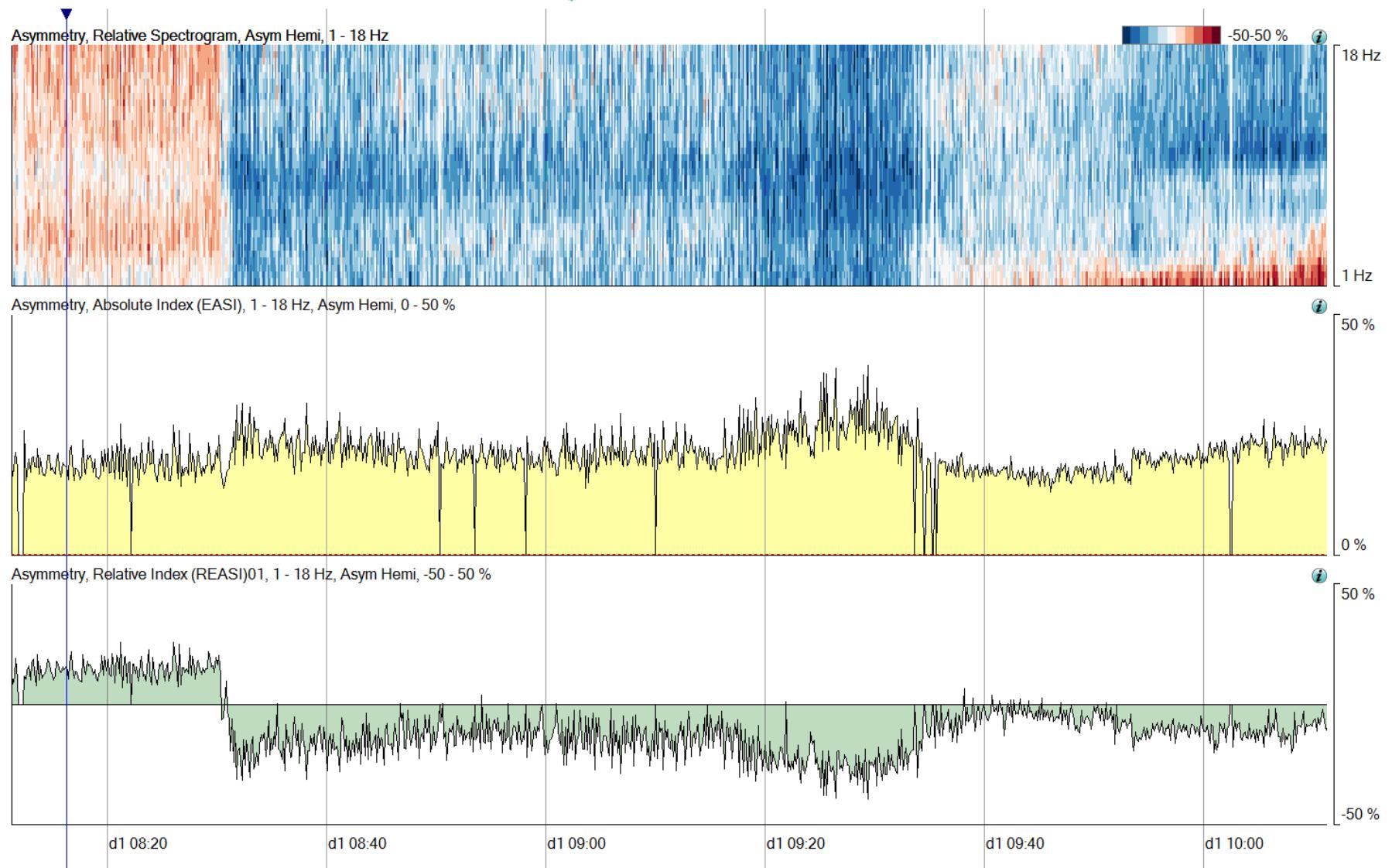


# Carotid Endarterectomy: Ischemia



# Carotid Endarterectomy, Ischemia

Artifact Reduction ON



# Delayed Cerebral Ischemia (DCI)

- New focal or global neurological deficit and/or new infarction after SAH (exclude rebleeding / hydrocephalus)
- Days 3 – 14 after SAH
- Major cause of cerebral ischemia and morbidity
- Occurs in 19-46% of patients
  - Infarct in ~ 60%
  - Subclinical in 25%, associated with poor outcome
- Risk factors
  - Poor Hunt-Hess grade
  - Large amounts of cisternal blood

1. Charpentier et al. Stroke 1999;30:1402-1408
2. Claassen et al. Stroke 2001;32:2012-2020
3. Qureshi et al. Crit Care Med 2000;28:984-990

# Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

- Pathophysiology
  - Vasospasm of large vessels
  - Microembolism
  - Vasospasm of peripheral arteries and arterioles (as opposed to proximal large vessels)
  - Cortical spreading ischemia
- DCI is treatable if diagnosed during reversible phase
  - Hypertension
  - Volume expansion
  - Intraarterial nicardipine, papaverine
  - Angioplasty
- Long window for intervention (2-6 hours)

# Monitoring for Vasospasm

- Clinical examination
  - Patient often sedated, uncooperative
- Daily Transcranial Dopplers (TCDs)
  - “Snapshot” in time
  - Only monitors for vasospasm, not other causes of ischemia
  - Mediocre sensitivity and specificity
- Conventional angiography
  - Performed if above suggestive of ischemia
  - Invasive
- Brain imaging (CT, CTA, and MRI)
  - Performed if above suggestive of ischemia

# Labar: EEG Monitoring in SAH

- 21 patients with aneurysmal SAH
- 2 channel EEG (Cz-T3, Cz-T4)
- Automatic artifact detection methods (excess of the dynamic range of amplifiers, zero-derivative signals, and excessive 60 Hz interference)
- Compressed spectral analysis (1-30 Hz)
- Trend analysis
  - Sum of the power (total power), 1-30 Hz
  - Centroid of the frequency, 1-30 Hz
  - Power 7.5-15 Hz / power 1-7 Hz ('alpha ratio')
  - Power 1-3.5 Hz / power 1-30 Hz ('percent delta')

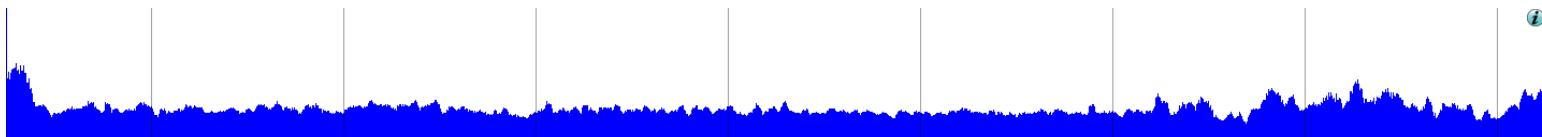
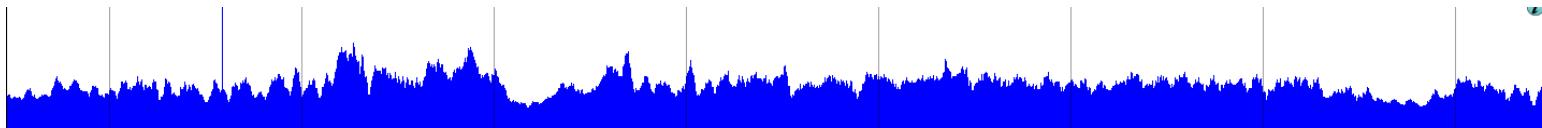
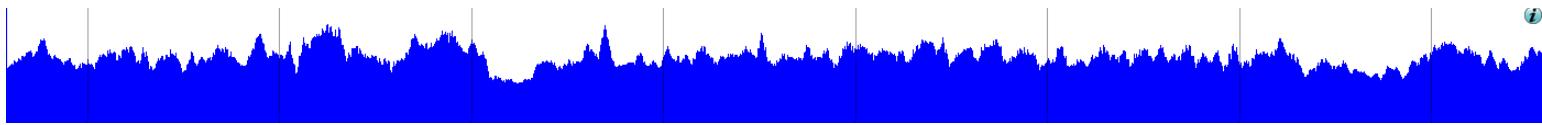
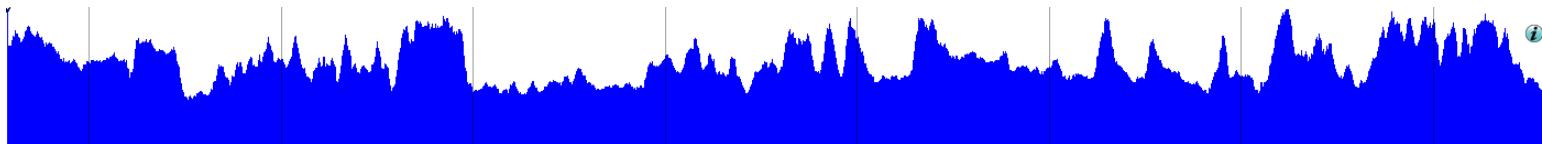
# Labar: EEG Monitoring in SAH

EEG Finding	EEG Parameter	Focal CT lesions (N)	All ischemic events (N)
Change in power	Trend analysis	100% (5)	91% (11)
	Compressed spectral array	33% (6)	44% (18)
Change in frequency	Centroid	60% (5)	55% (11)
	Relative alpha	60% (5)	64% (11)
	Percent delta	80% (5)	45% (11)
	Compressed spectral array	17% (6)	39% (18)

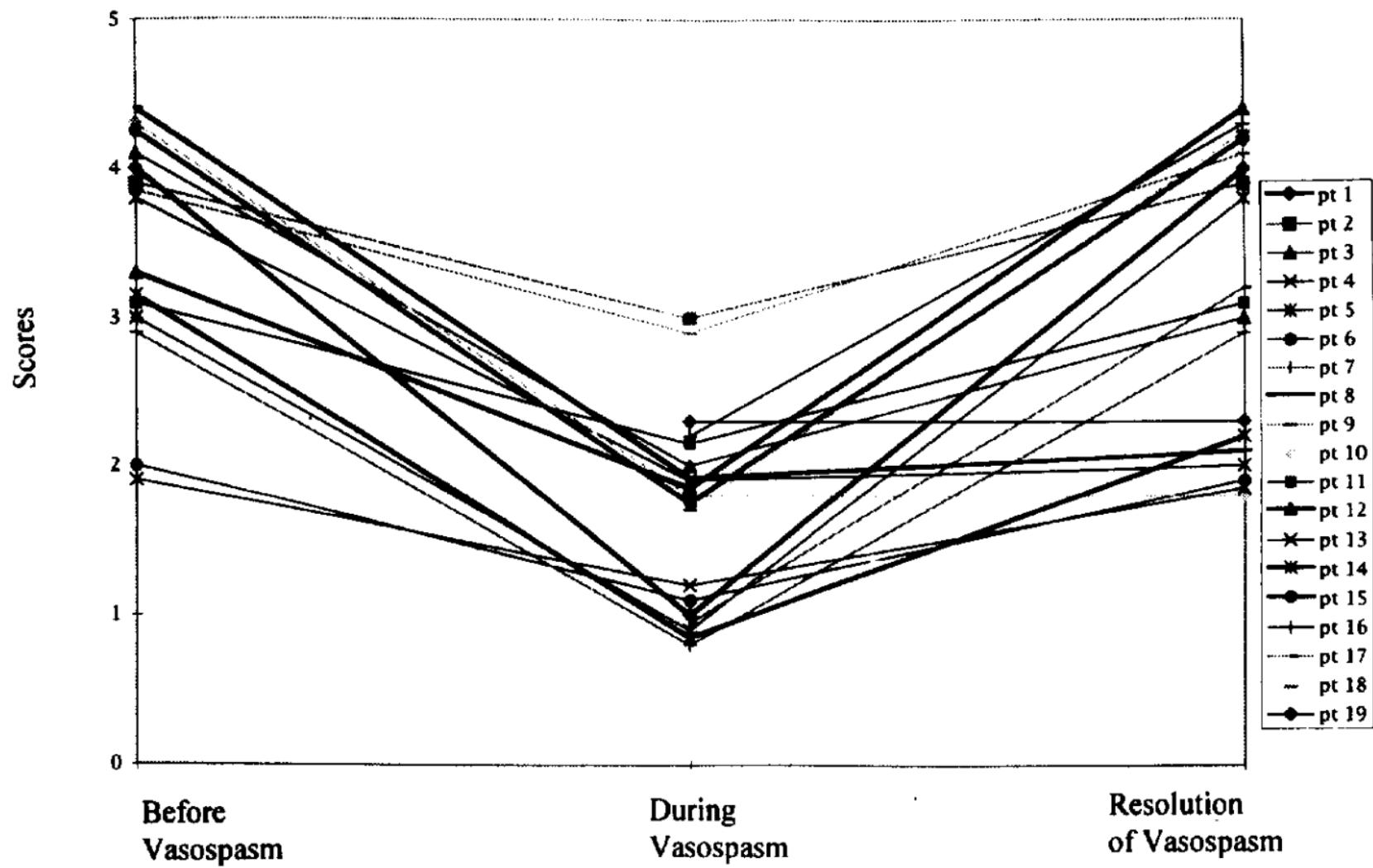
# Vespa: EEG Monitoring in SAH

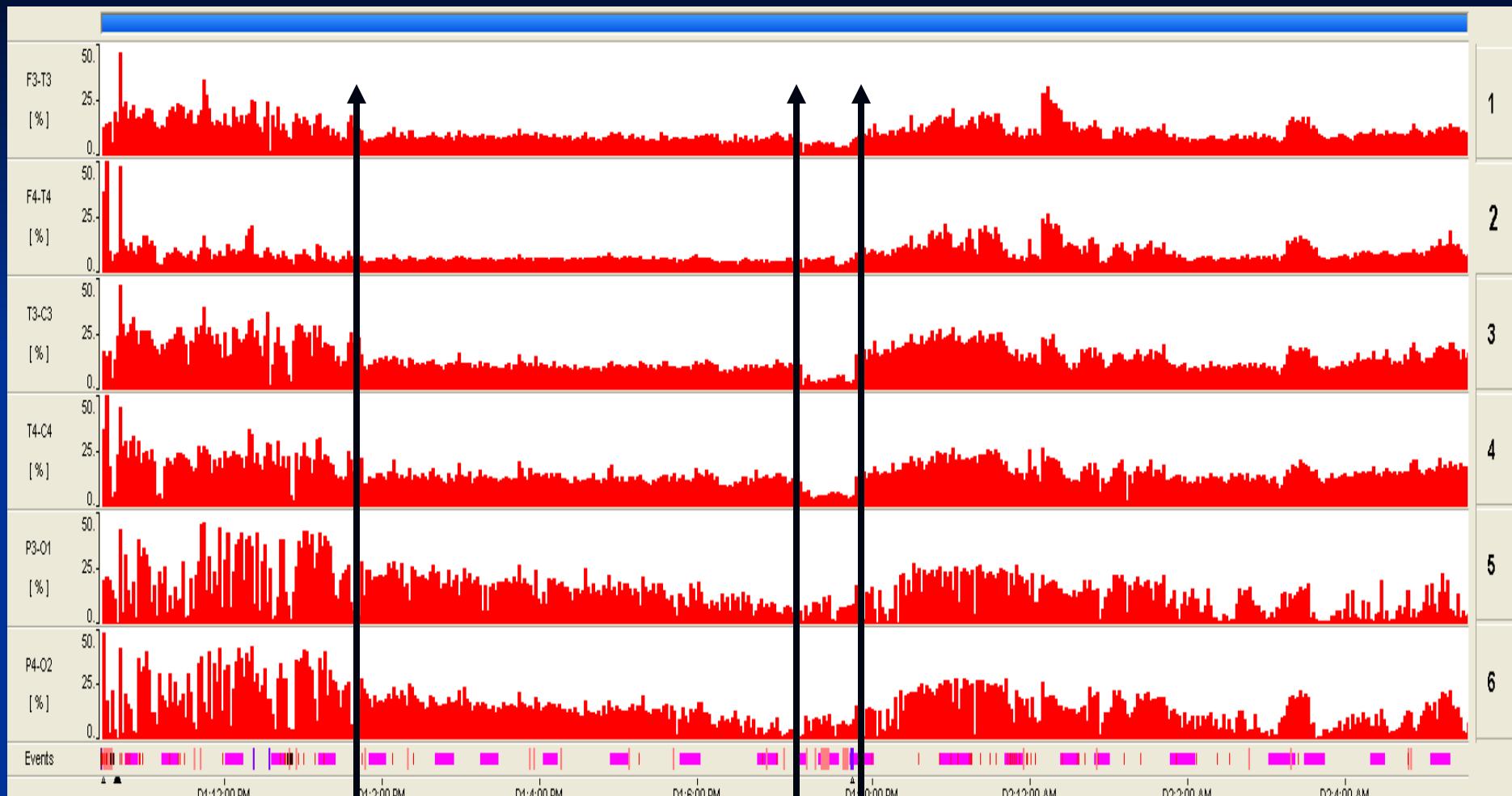
- 32 patients with aneurysmal SAH
- Reduction in variability of theta-alpha content (6-14Hz)
  - Ratio of power in 6-14Hz band relative to power in 1-20Hz band
- Sensitivity 100%
- Specificity 50% (increased ICP, recurrent hemorrhage, hydrocephalus, embolic stroke during angio)
- Preceded clinical onset of vasospasm and elevated TCD velocities in 70%
  - Mean 2.9 days

# Alpha Variability



# Vespa: EEG Monitoring in SAH

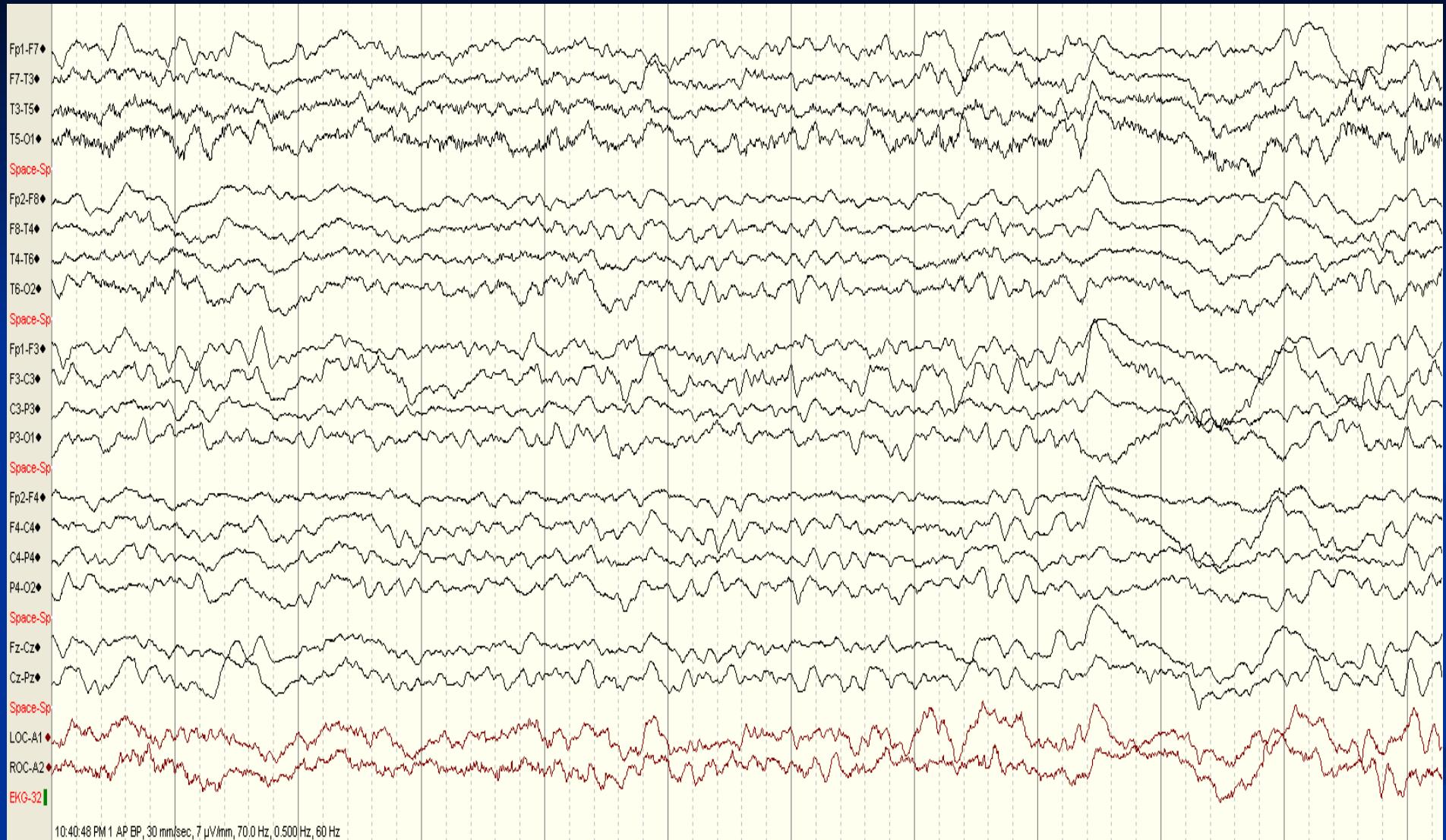




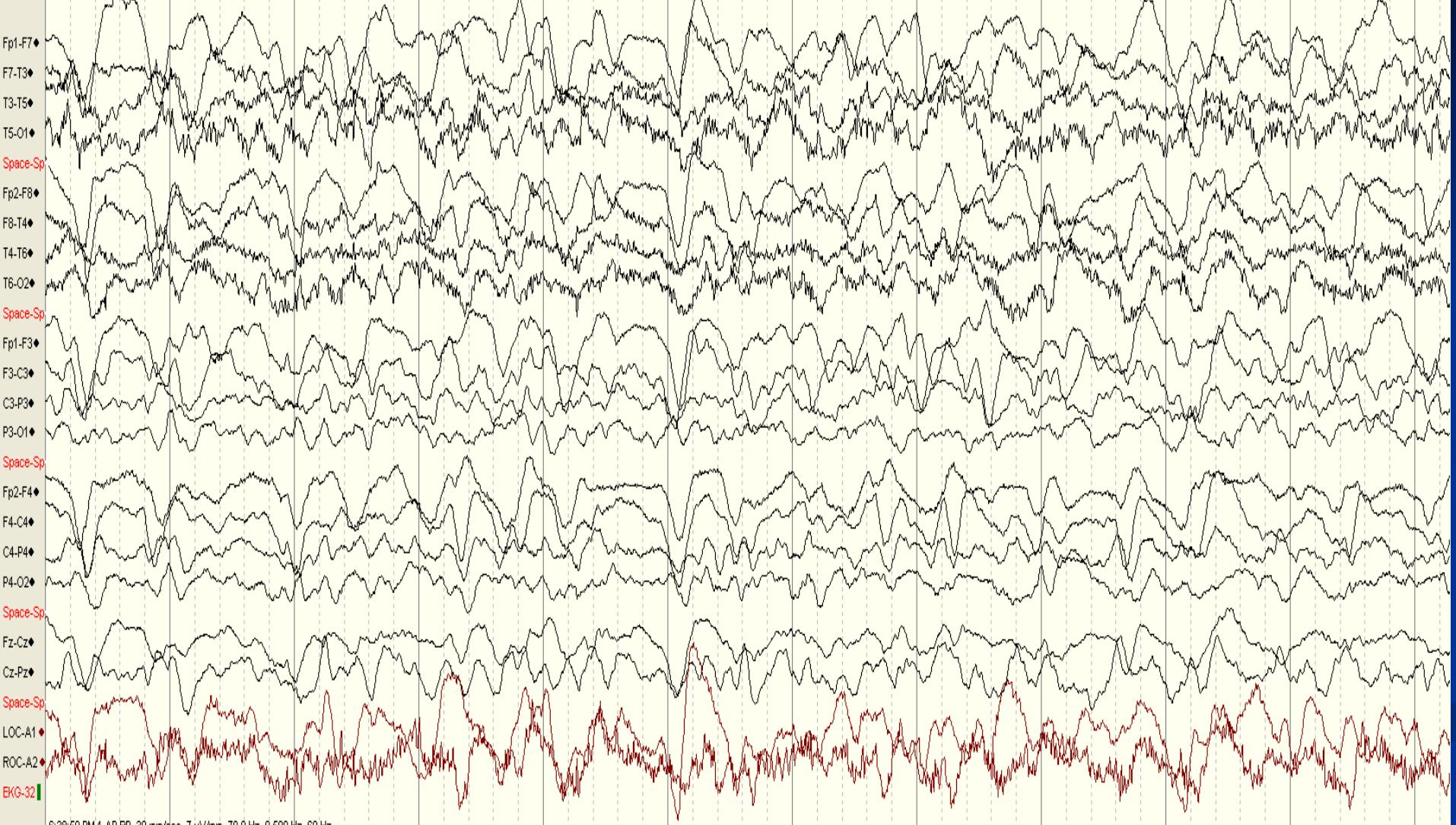
Bilateral frontal  
ischemia - decrease in  
alpha variability

Clinical deterioration  
sedation / intubation

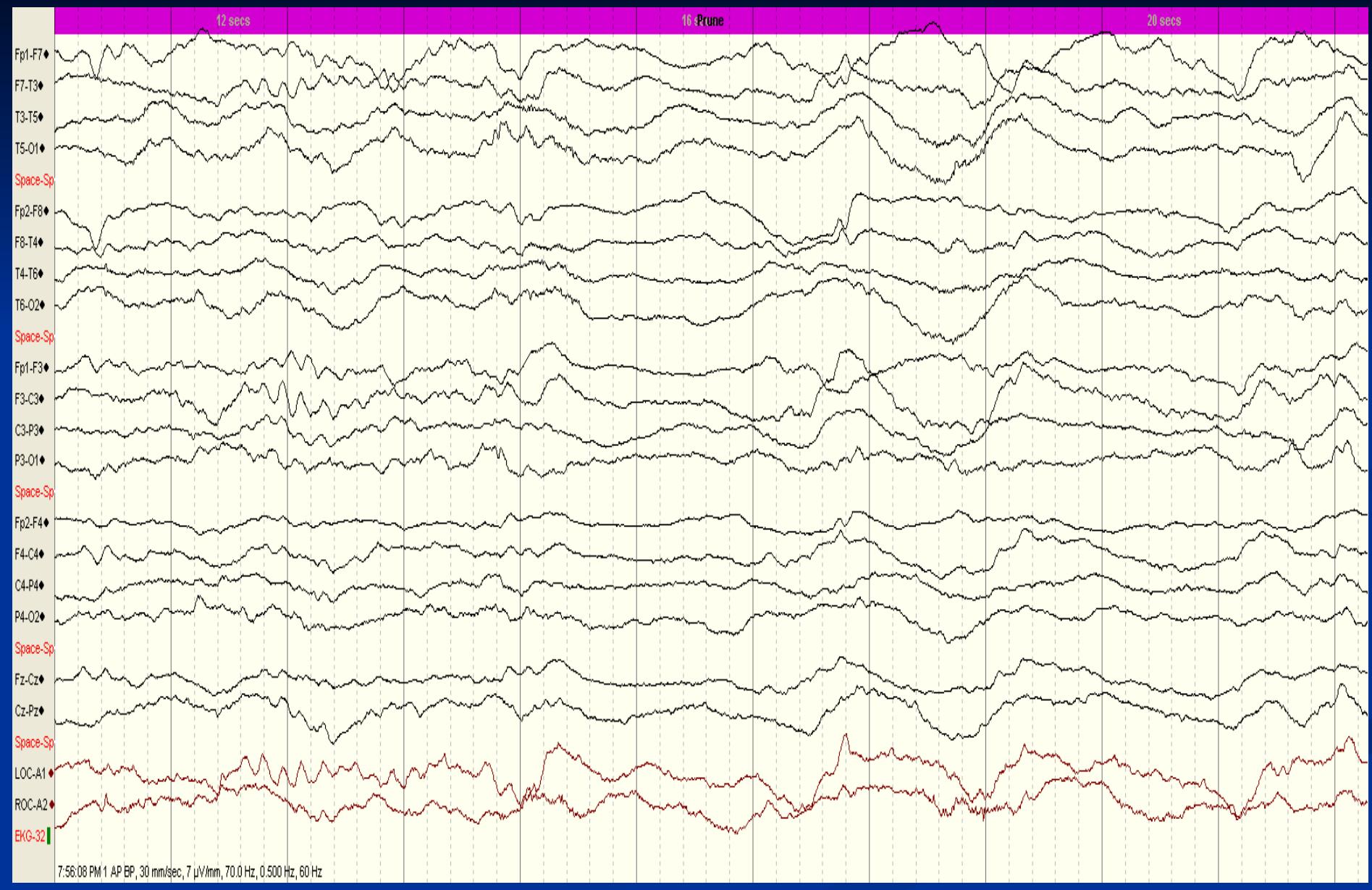
Disconnected 2 hrs for angiogram:  
Improvement in alpha variability  
after angio



10:40:48 PM 1 AP BP, 30 mm/sec, 7  $\mu$ V/mm, 70.0 Hz, 0.500 Hz, 60 Hz



6:38:50 PM 1 AP BP, 30 mm/sec, 7  $\mu$ V/mn, 70.0 Hz, 0.500 Hz, 60 Hz

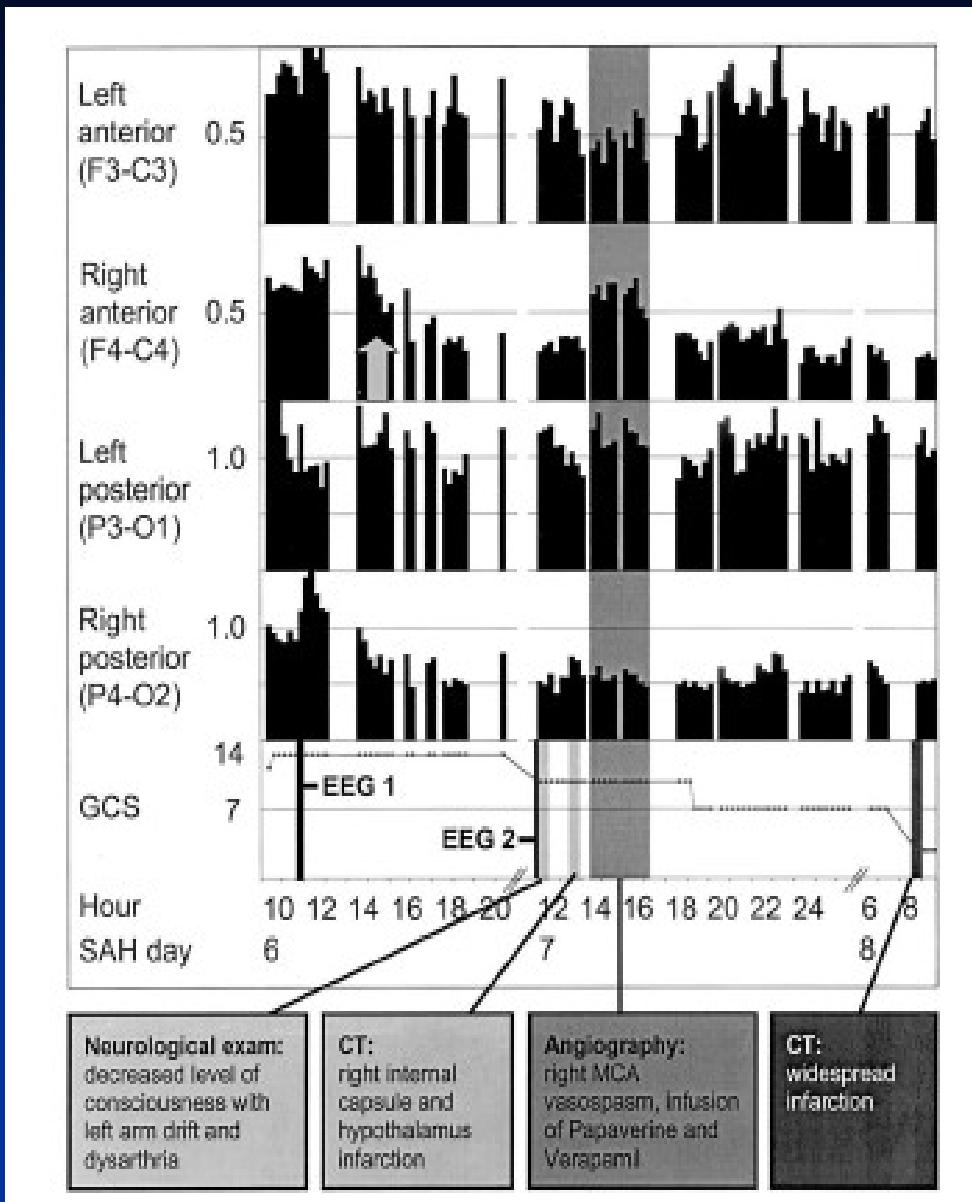


# Claassen: EEG Monitoring in SAH

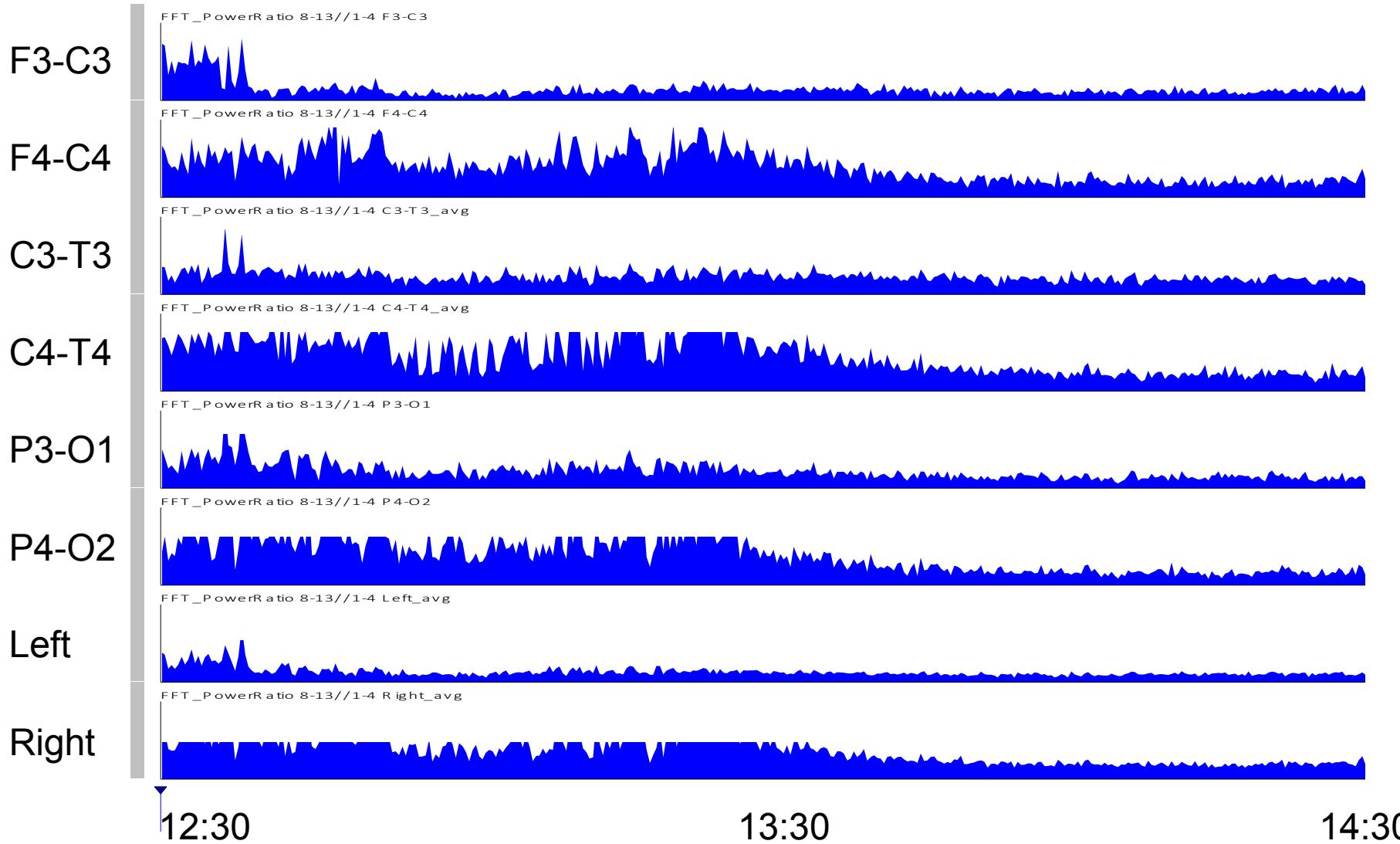
- 34 of 78 consecutive Hunt-Hess grade 4 or 5 SAH patients
- Continuous EEG post-op day 2 to post-SAH day 14
- 20 artifact-free, 1 min EEG-clips after alerting stimulus
  - 10 clips on monitoring day 1 (baseline)
  - 10 clips on days 4-6 (follow-up)
    - In DCI patients, follow-up clips after the onset of deterioration and before infarction

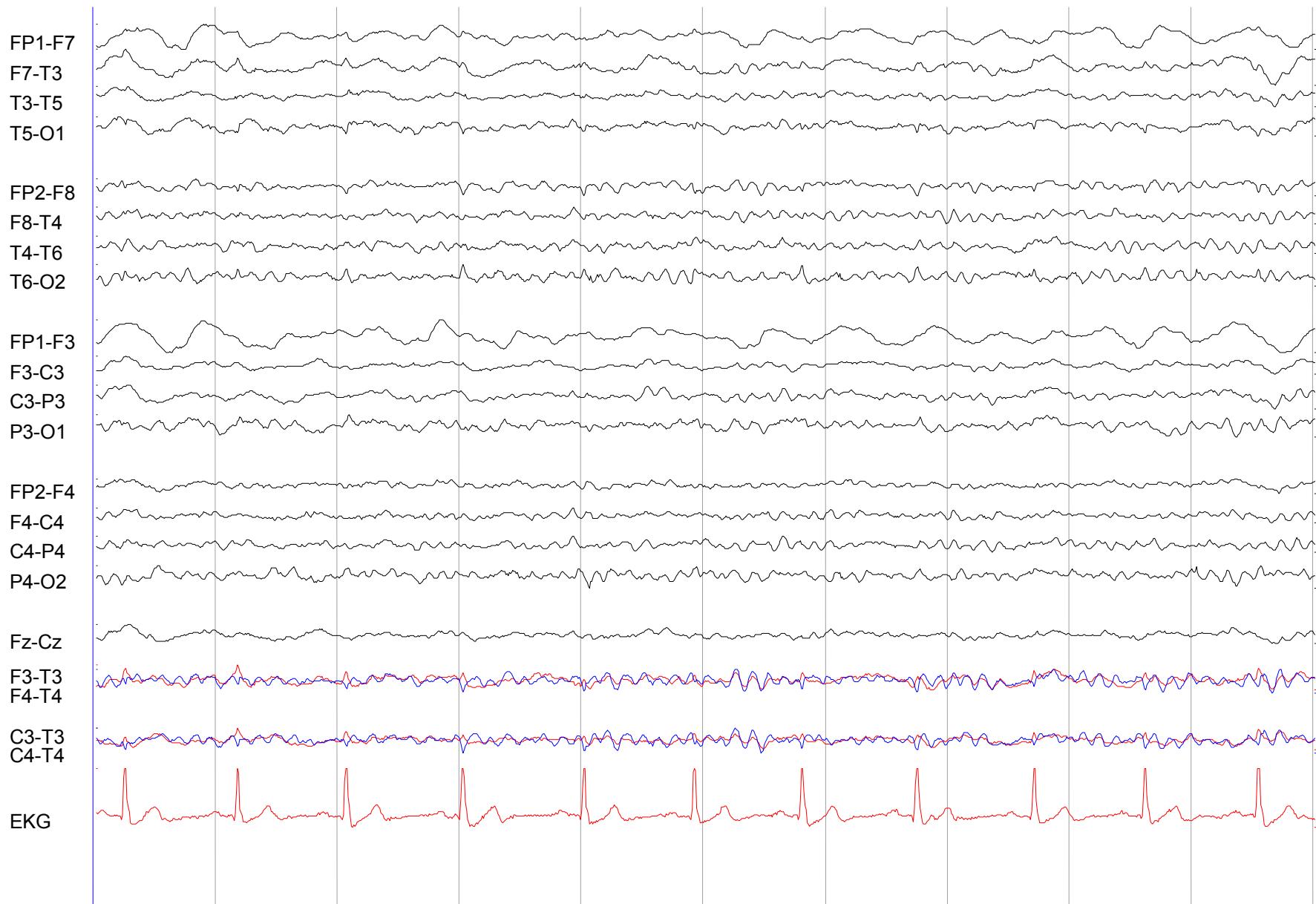
# Claassen: EEG Monitoring in SAH

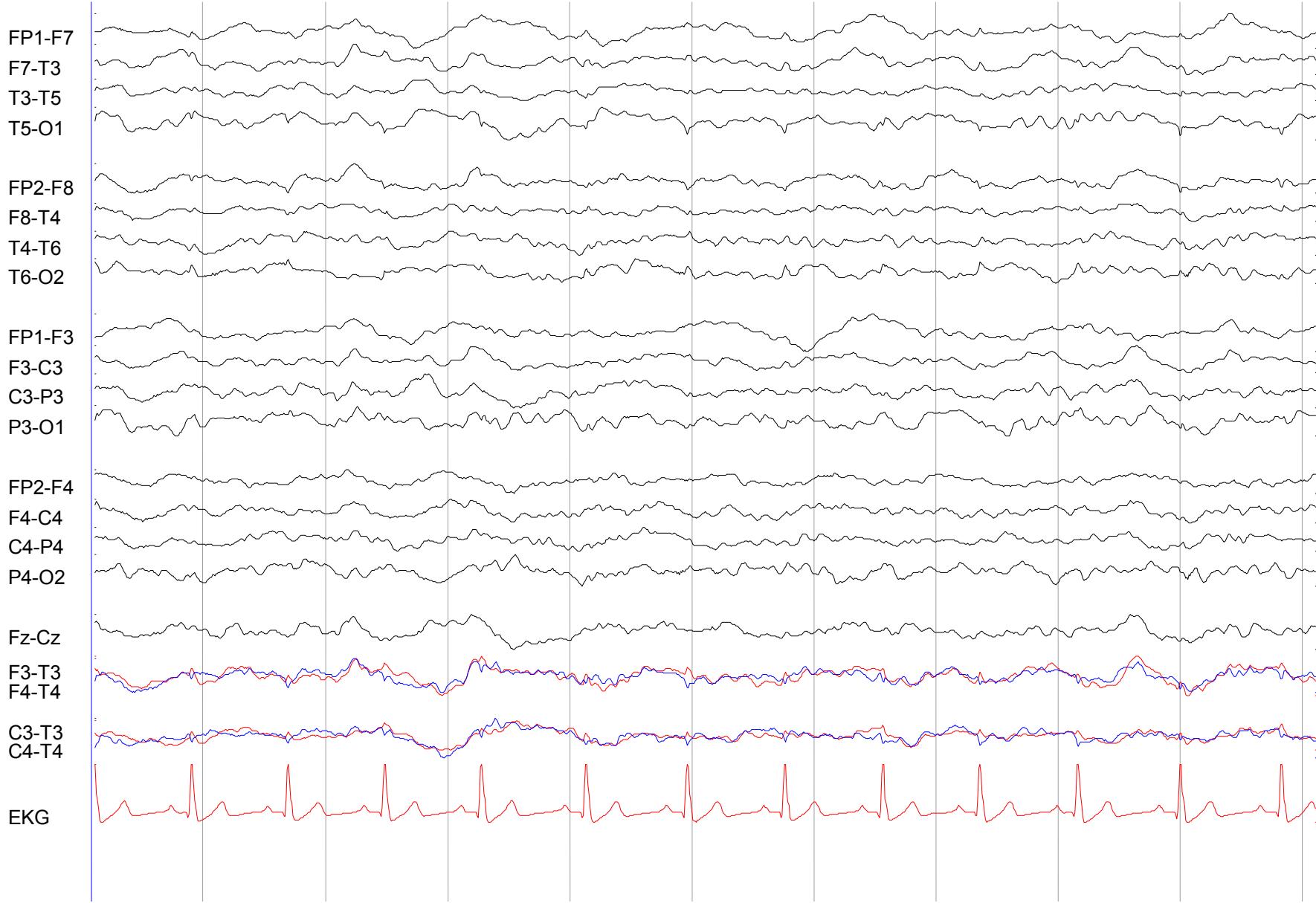
- Nine of 34 patients (26%) developed DCI
- Alpha/delta ratio (alpha power/delta power; ADR) demonstrated the strongest association with DCI
  - Median decrease of ADR in DCI was 24%
  - Median increase of 3% without DCI ( $p < 0.0001$ )
- Clinically useful cut-offs
  - 6 consecutive recordings with  $>10\%$  decrease in ADR from baseline (sensitivity 100%, specificity 76%)
  - Any single measurement with a  $>50\%$  decrease (sensitivity 89%, specificity 84%)



# SAH: Alpha-Delta Ratio

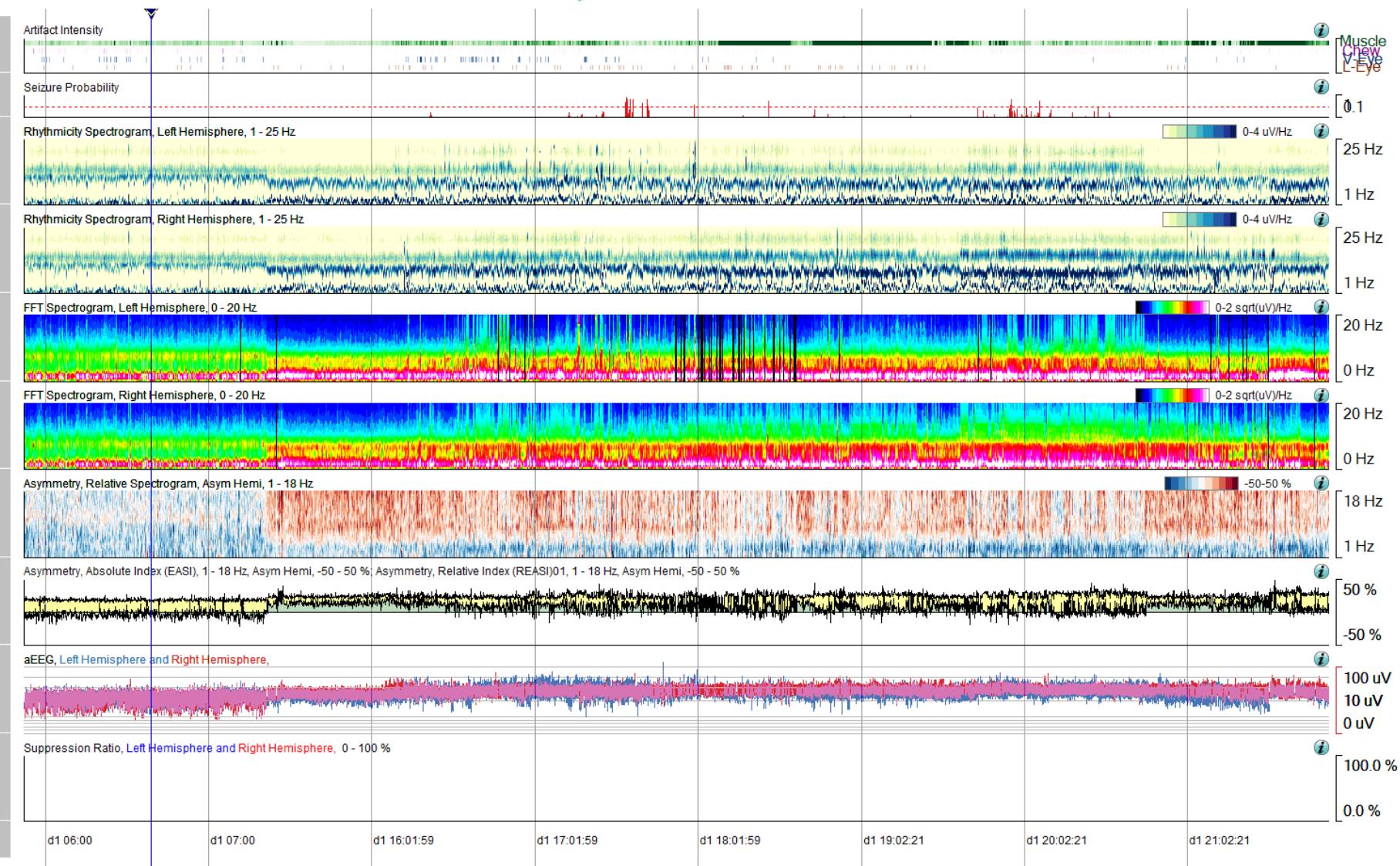






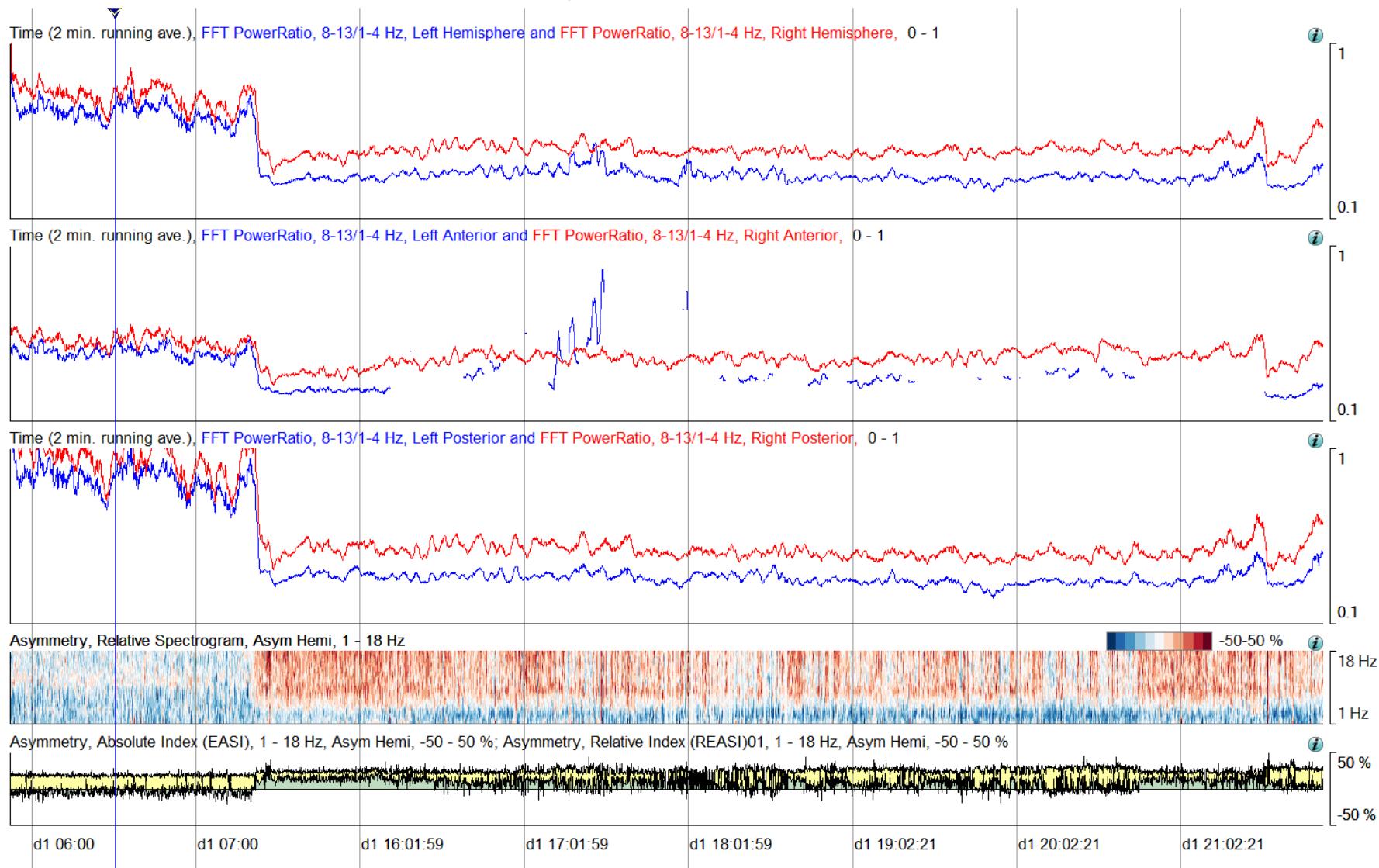
# Comprehensive Panel

Artifact Reduction ON



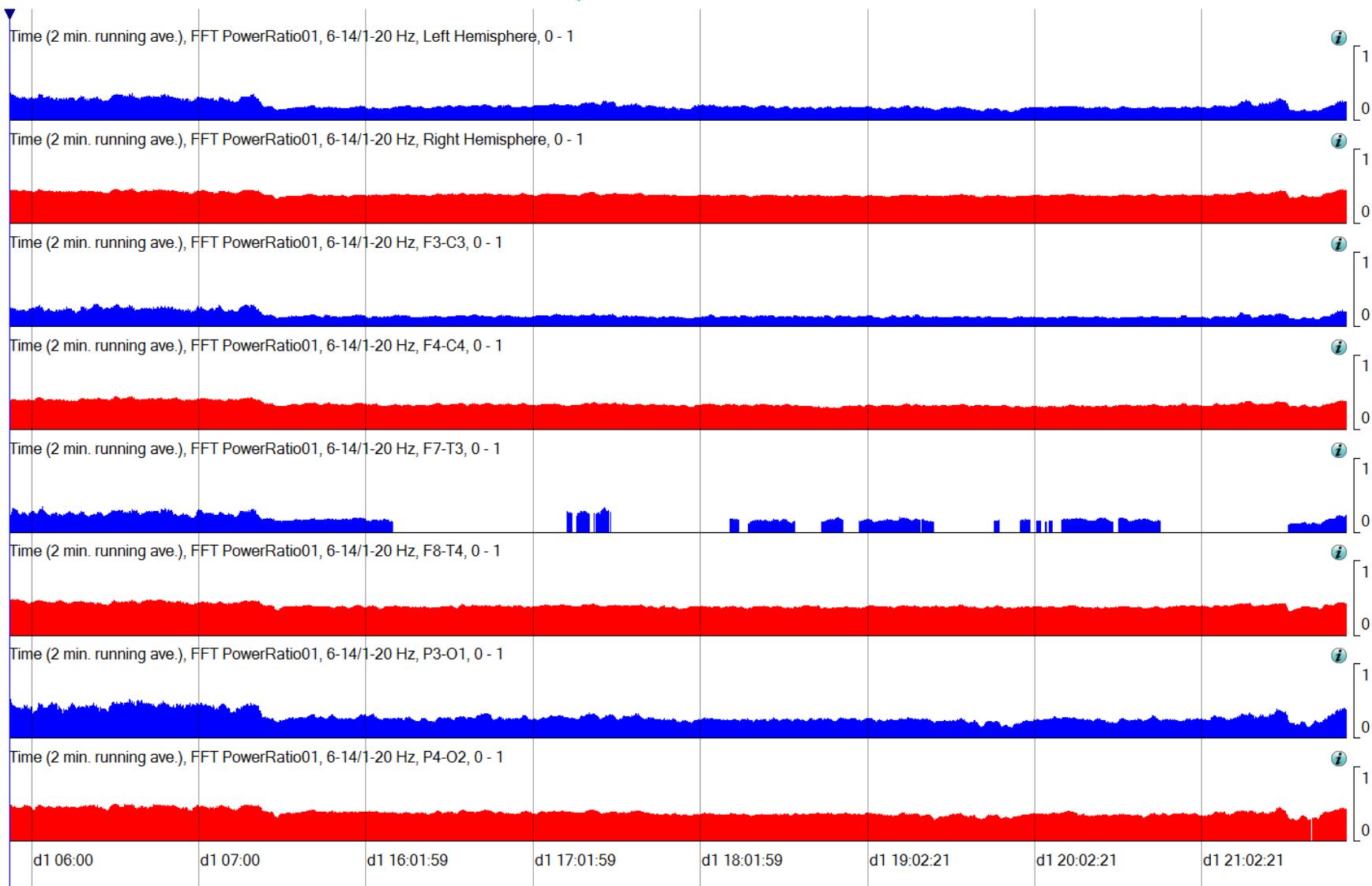
# Alpha-Delta Ratio

Artifact Reduction ON



# Alpha Variability

Artifact Reduction ON



Relative Asymmetry Spectrogram, Hemispheric, 0-18 Hz (red=right>left)

-30-30 %

Asymmetry Index [yellow=absolute, green=relative]

-30-30 %

ADR [red=right blue=left]

0-1

ADR Left Hemisphere

0-0.5

ADR Right Hemisphere

0-0.5

ADR F3-C3

0-0.5

ADR F4-C4

0-0.5

ADR C3-T3

0-0.5

ADR C4-T4

0-0.5

ADR P3-O1

0-0.5

ADR P4-O2

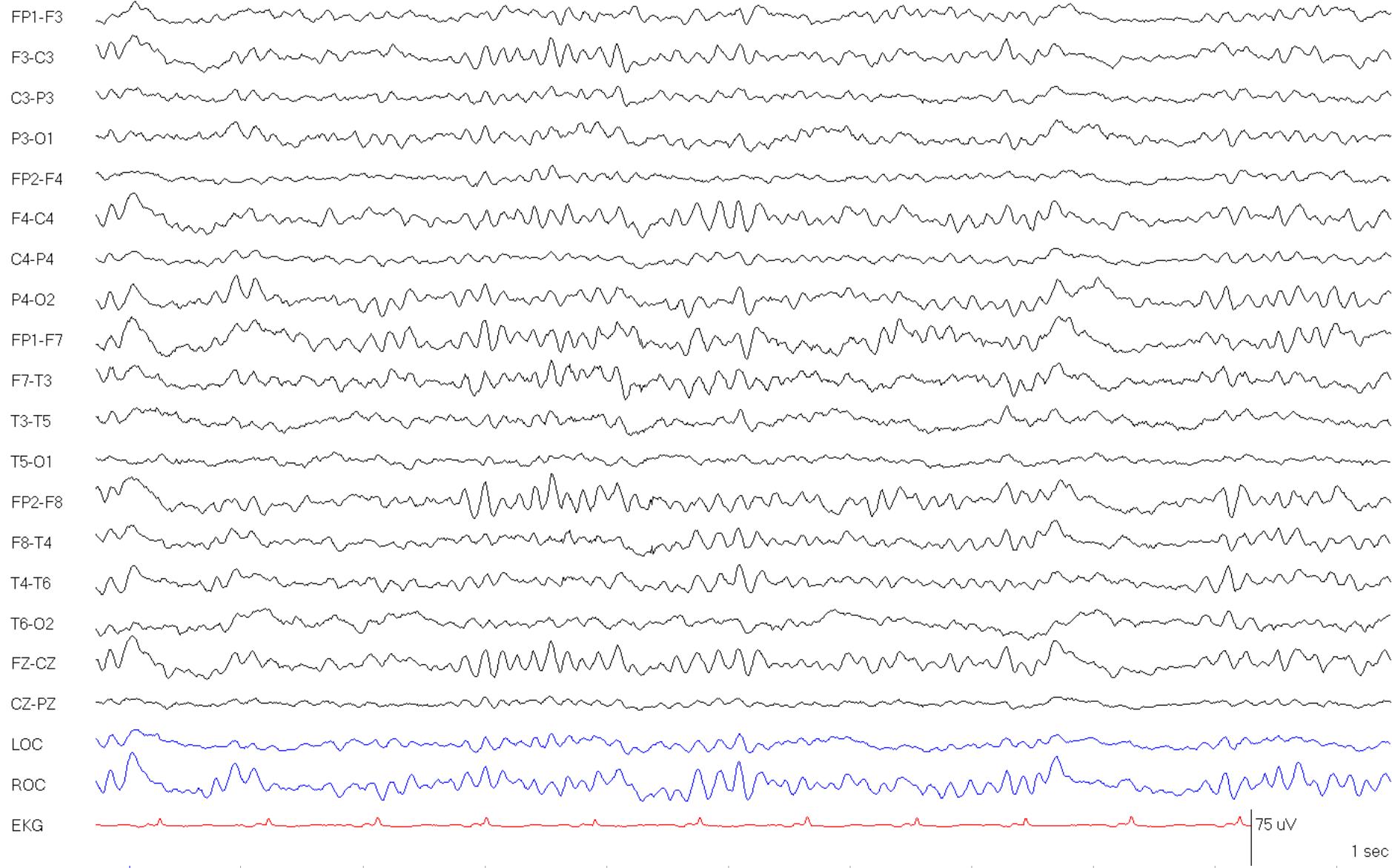
0-0.5

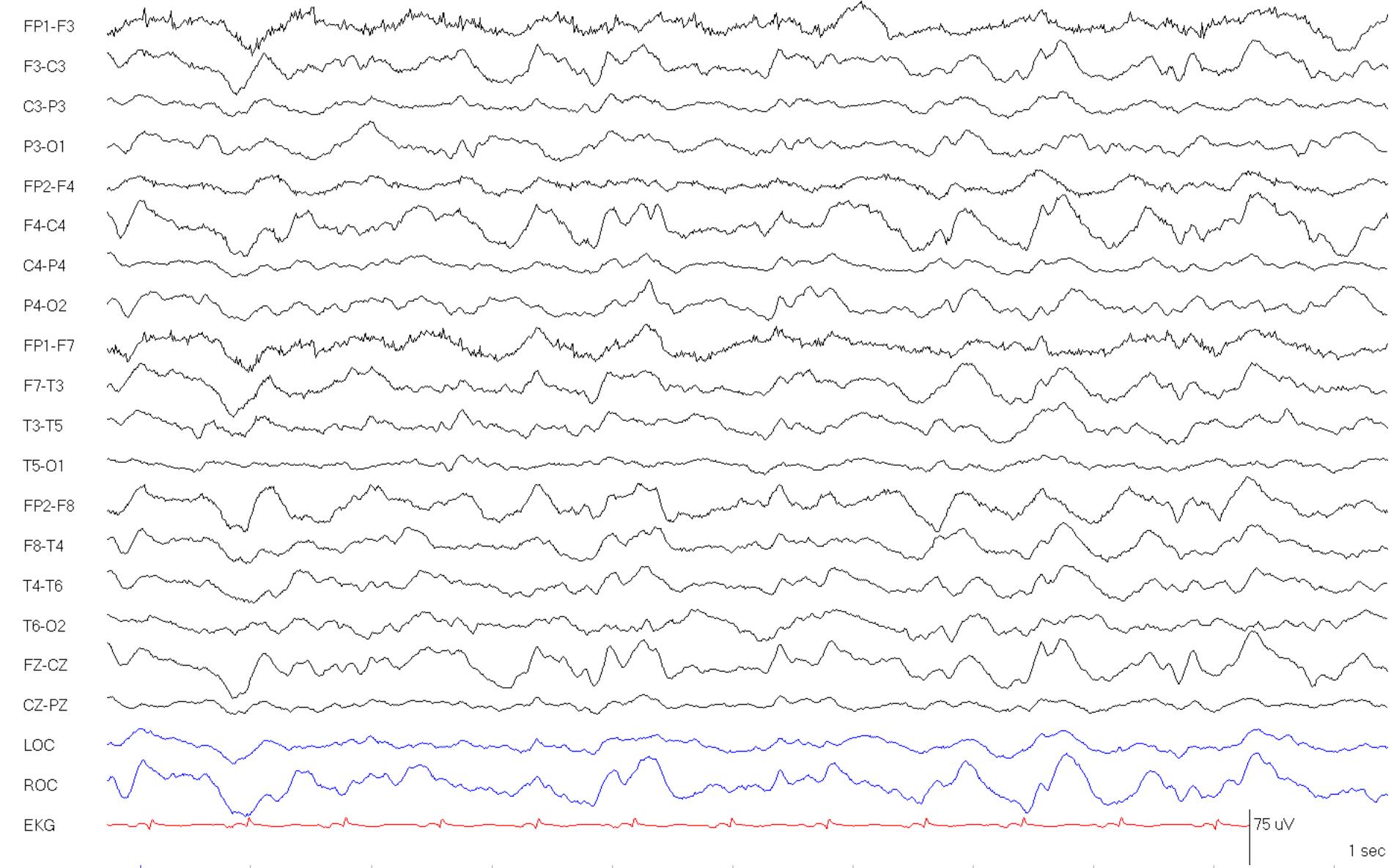
d1 11:00

d1 12:00

d1 13:00

d1 14:00

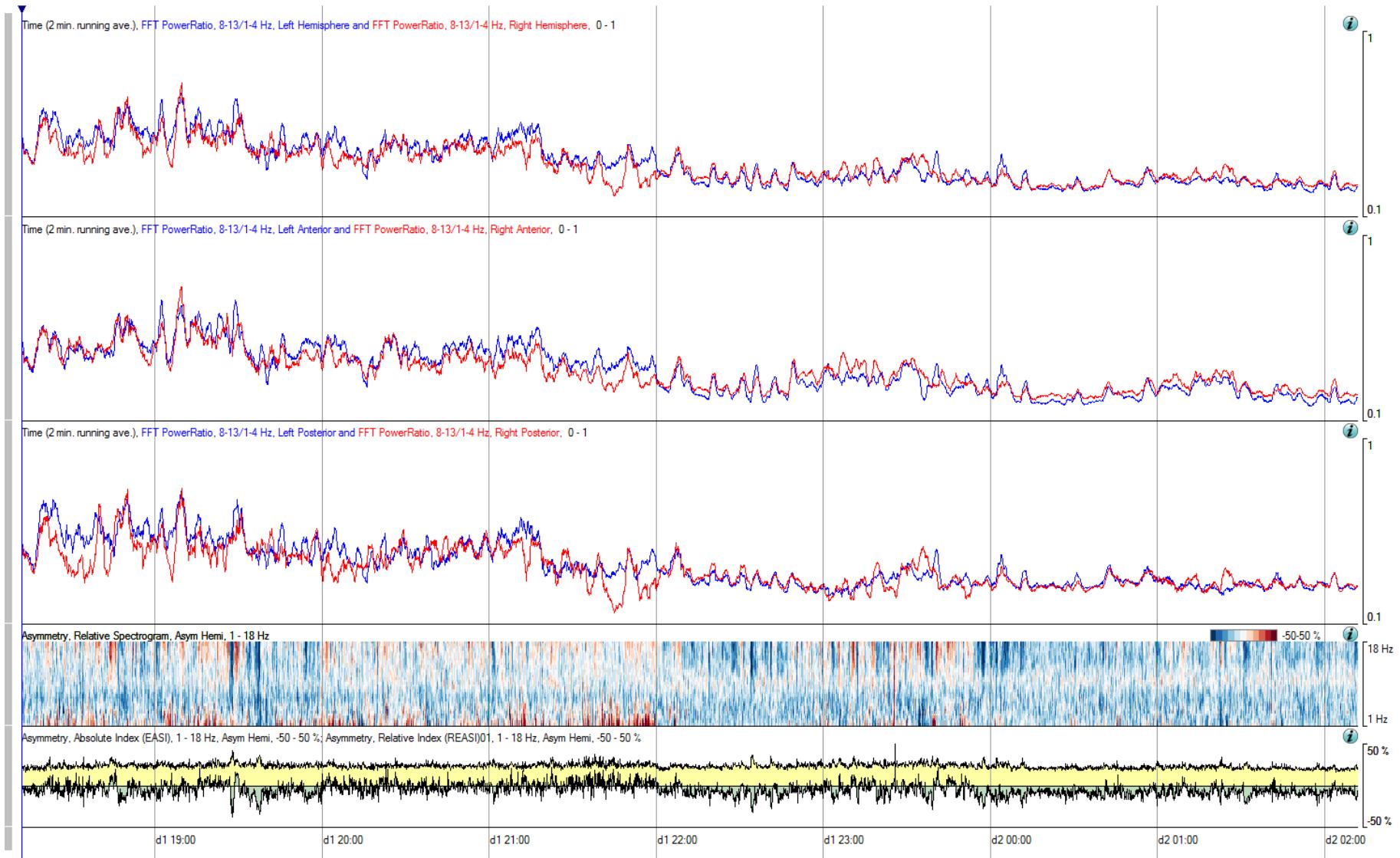




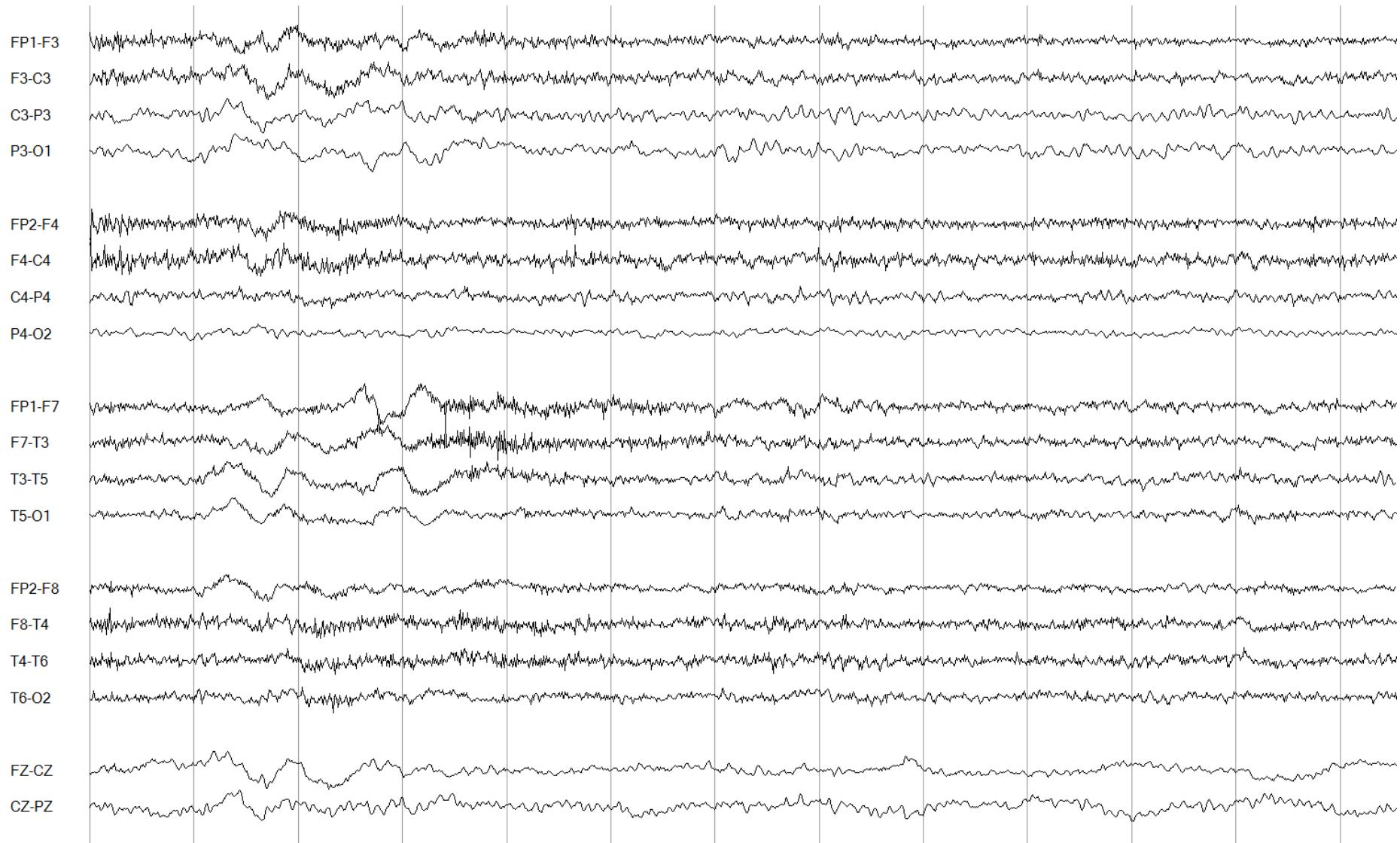
# Case 1

- 56 year old man with SAH
  - Hunt-Hess grade 3
  - Fisher grade 3
  - GCS 10
- Angiography revealed a 7 mm left AComm aneurysm
- Aneurysm was clipped uneventfully

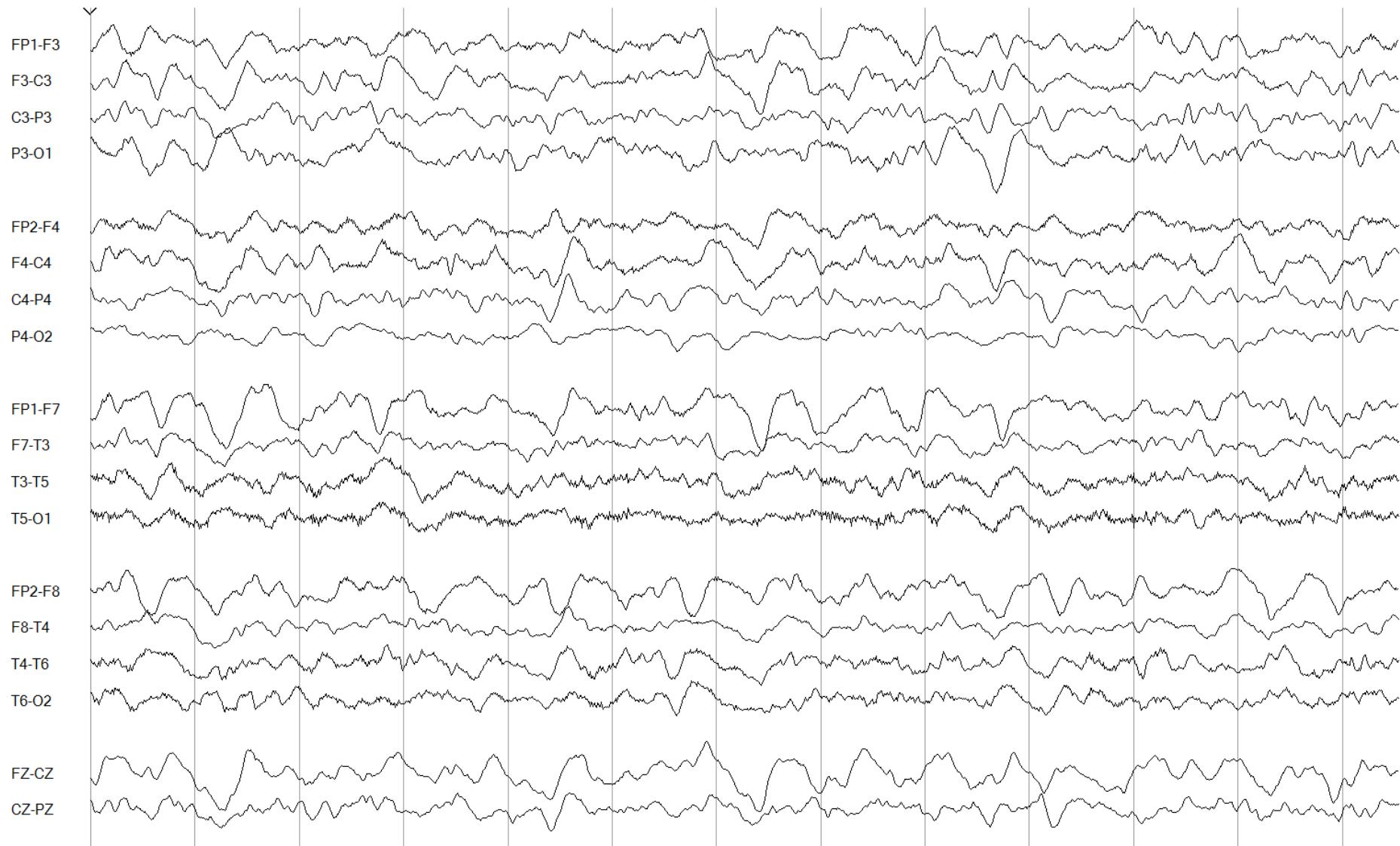
# Alpha-Delta: 8 hours



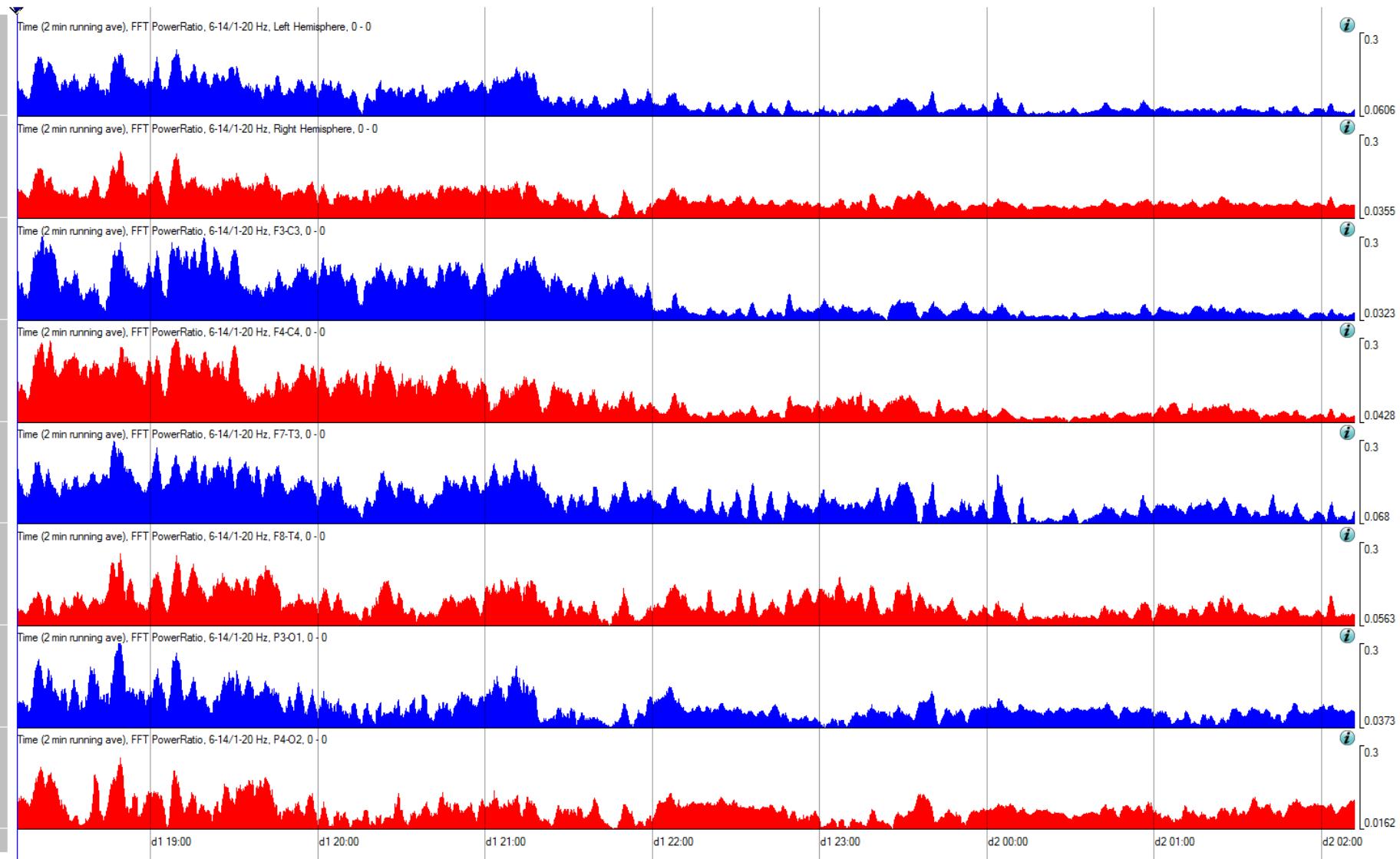
# Raw EEG: 30 minutes



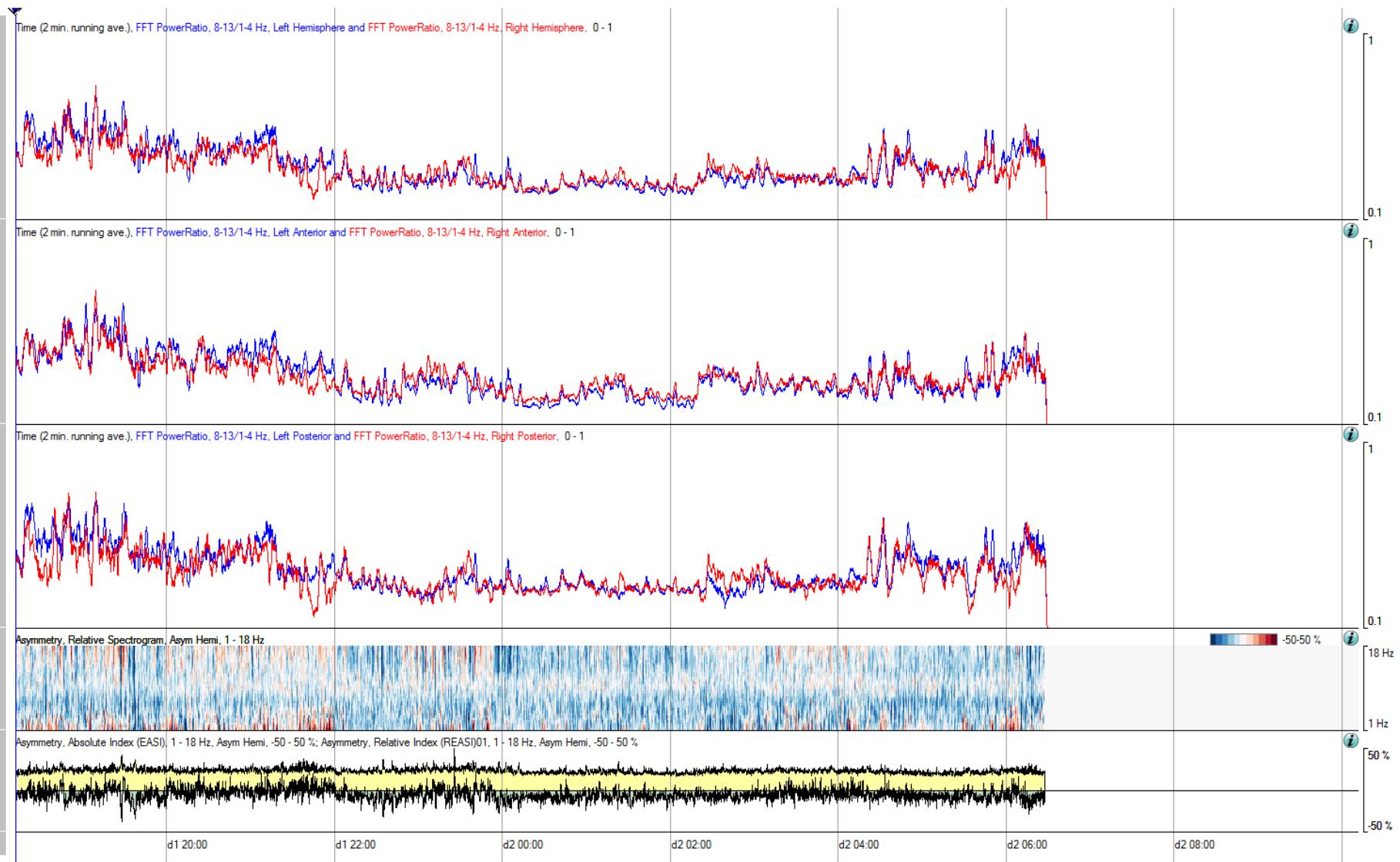
# Raw EEG: 6 hours



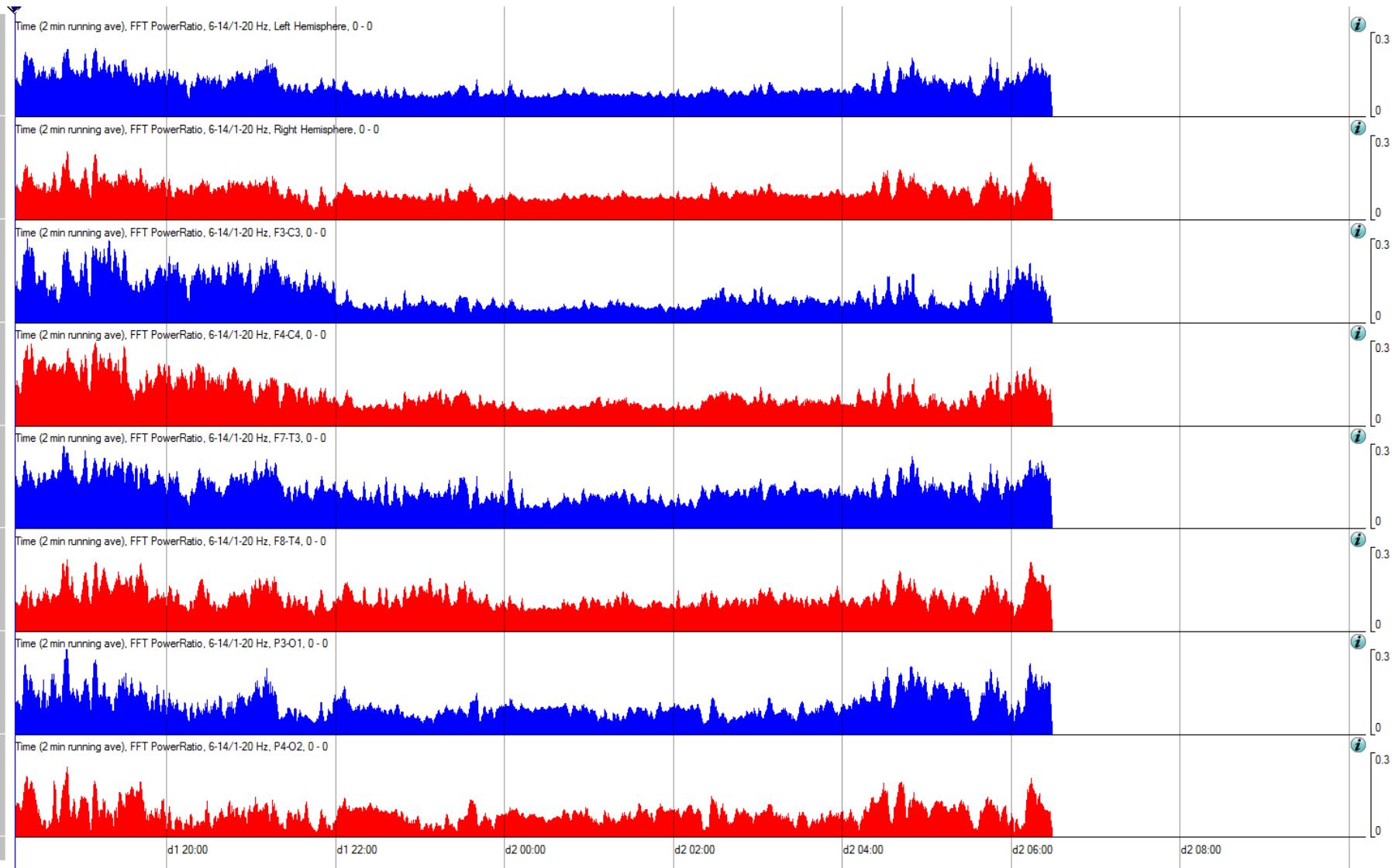
# Alpha Variability: 8 hours



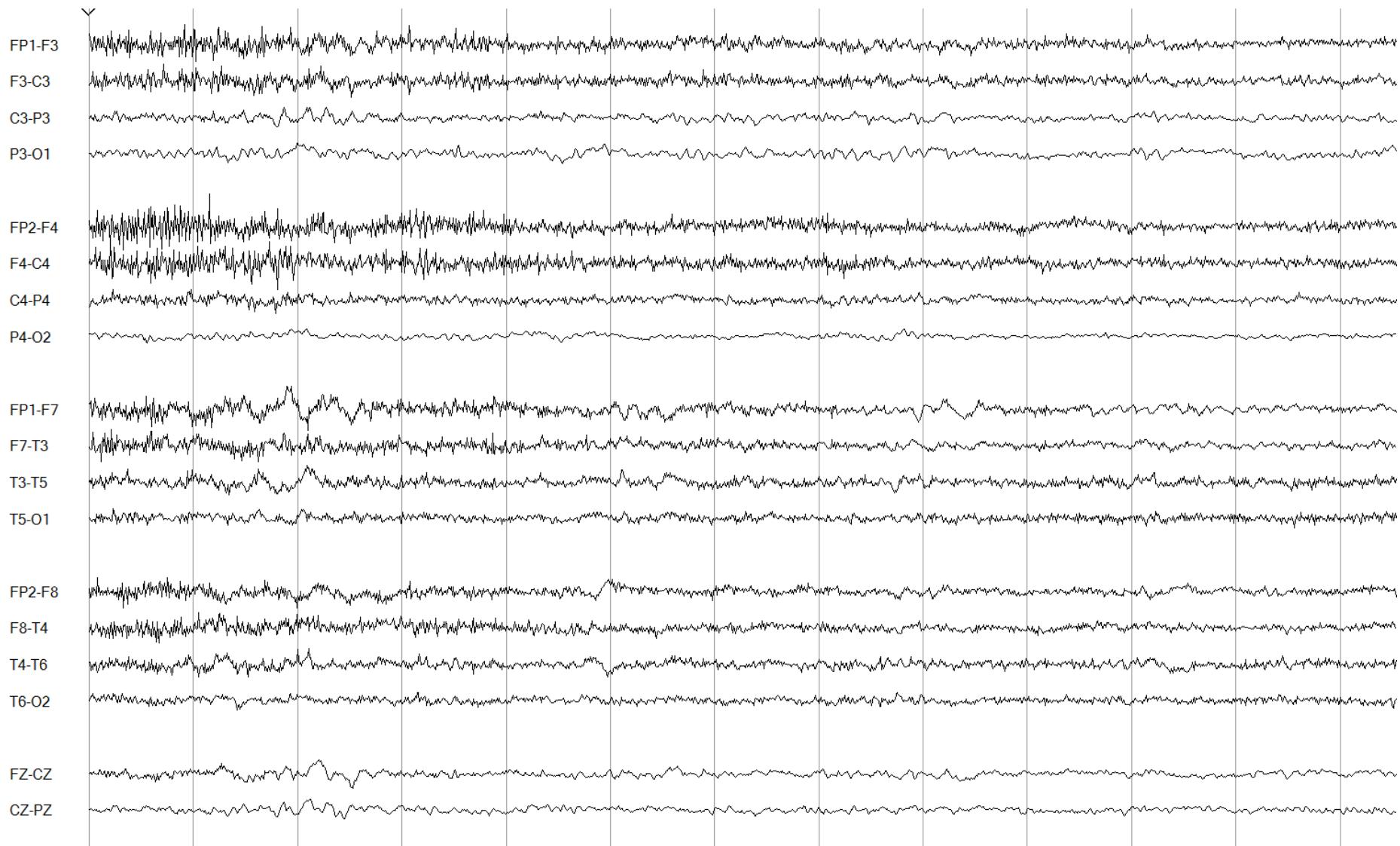
# Alpha-Delta: 16 hours



# Alpha Variability: 16 hours



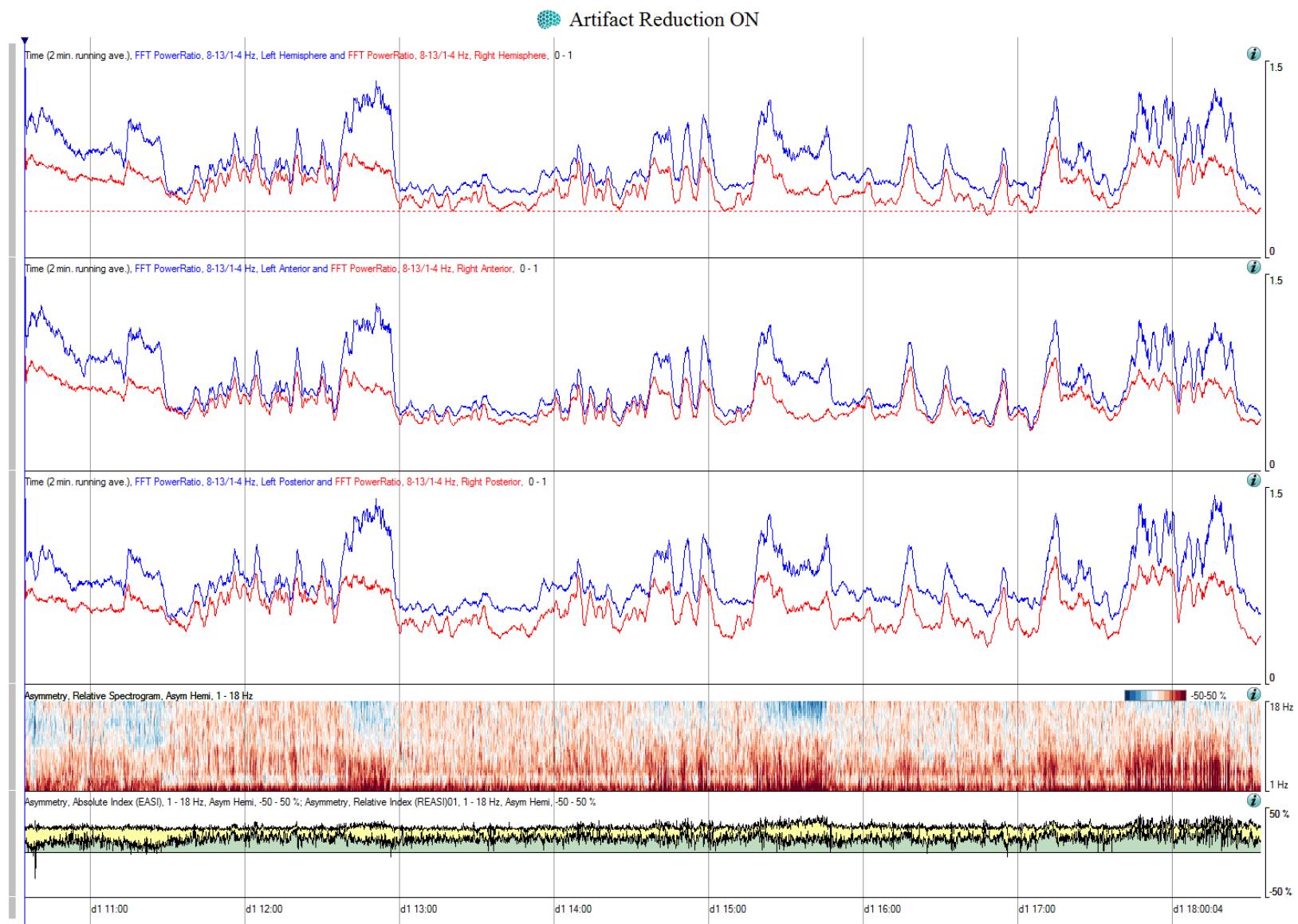
# Raw EEG: 12 hours



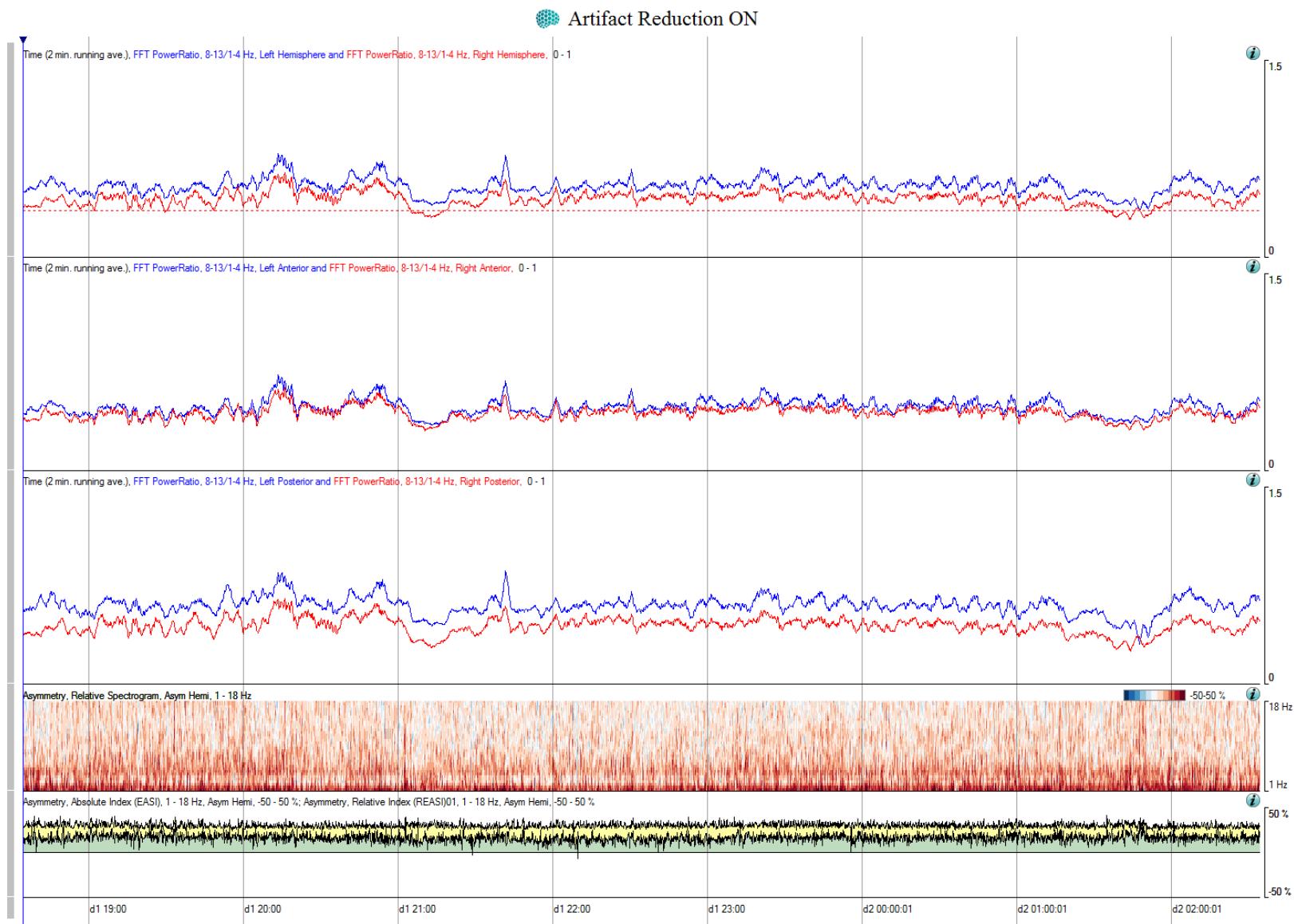
# Case 2

- 62-year-old woman with SAH
  - Hunt-Hess grade 2
  - Fisher grade 3
  - GCS 14
- Angiography revealed a 8 mm right internal carotid supraclinoid aneurysm and a 4 mm left anterior communicating artery/anterior cerebral artery junction aneurysm
- Both aneurysms were clipped uneventfully

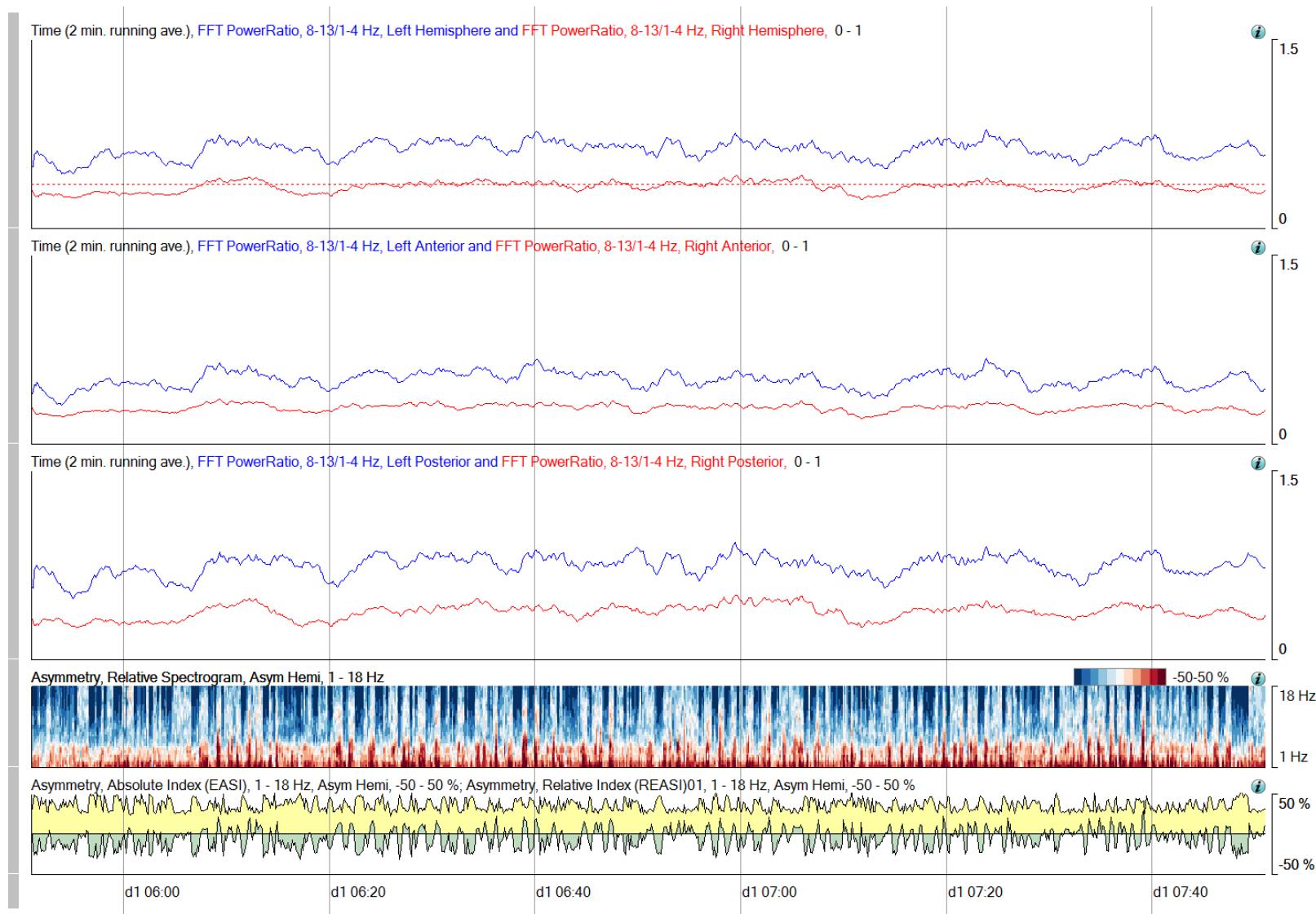
# Alpha-Delta: 8 hours



# Alpha-Delta: 8 hours



# Alpha Delta: 8 hours, day 4



# QEEG: Intracortical EEG

- Improved signal: noise and reduced artifact
- 5 patients with poor grade SAH (Hunt-Hess grade 4 or 5)
- 8 contact depth electrode (2.2 mm spacing)
- QEEG: average over 4-6 hrs baseline vs. prior to angio
  - Alpha/delta ratio (ADR, 8–13 Hz/1–4 Hz)
  - Mean amplitude
  - Suppression percent (percent below 5 uV)
  - Total power (TP, 0–23 Hz)
  - Superior to alpha-delta ratio of scalp EEG

# QEEG: Intracortical EEG

- 3/5 SAH patients had vasospasm on follow-up angio
- Mean ICE ADRs prior to angiography
  - Decreased by 42% for those with vasospasm
  - Decreased by 17% for those without vasospasm
  - Dropped by at least 25% for >4 h in all patients with vasospasm 1–3 days before angiographic confirmation of vasospasm
  - No false negatives
- Surface EEG was limited by significant artifact and poor signal quality, despite application of automated artifact rejection

# Systematic Review

- 8 publications included from 760 citations
  - All single-center case series, half retrospective
  - All affected by high risk of bias related to patient selection
  - 50% high risk of bias for EEG methodology

# Systematic Review

- Reference standard: CT, DSA, and TCD (120 to 140 cm/min) in most but not all studies
  - 4 studies: DCI based on clinical diagnosis, presence of radiological vasospasm or increased TCD flow velocities was supportive but not mandatory
- Conclusion
  - CEEG monitoring after SAH may predict clinically symptomatic episodes of DCI many hours in advance
  - Unknown if more aggressive treatment alters outcome

# **QEEG for DCI: Confounders**

- Sedation and other medications
- Increased intracranial pressure
- Reduced global cerebral perfusion pressure
- Metabolic changes
- Hydrocephalus
- Rebleeding
- Focal edema
- Artifacts
- Large variety of DCI definitions
  - New definition: infarct and functional outcome

# **Summary: CEEG after SAH**

- EEG and QEEG trends on cEEG (performed on days 2–10) correlate with delayed cerebral ischemia
- QEEG trends designed to detect increased slow and loss of fast frequencies
- May detect ischemia prior to neurological exam and other diagnostic tests
- Sensitivity up to 90%
- Specificity 75%
- Optimal duration not defined
- Most studies examined poor grade patients
- No interventional trials using EEG as detection method

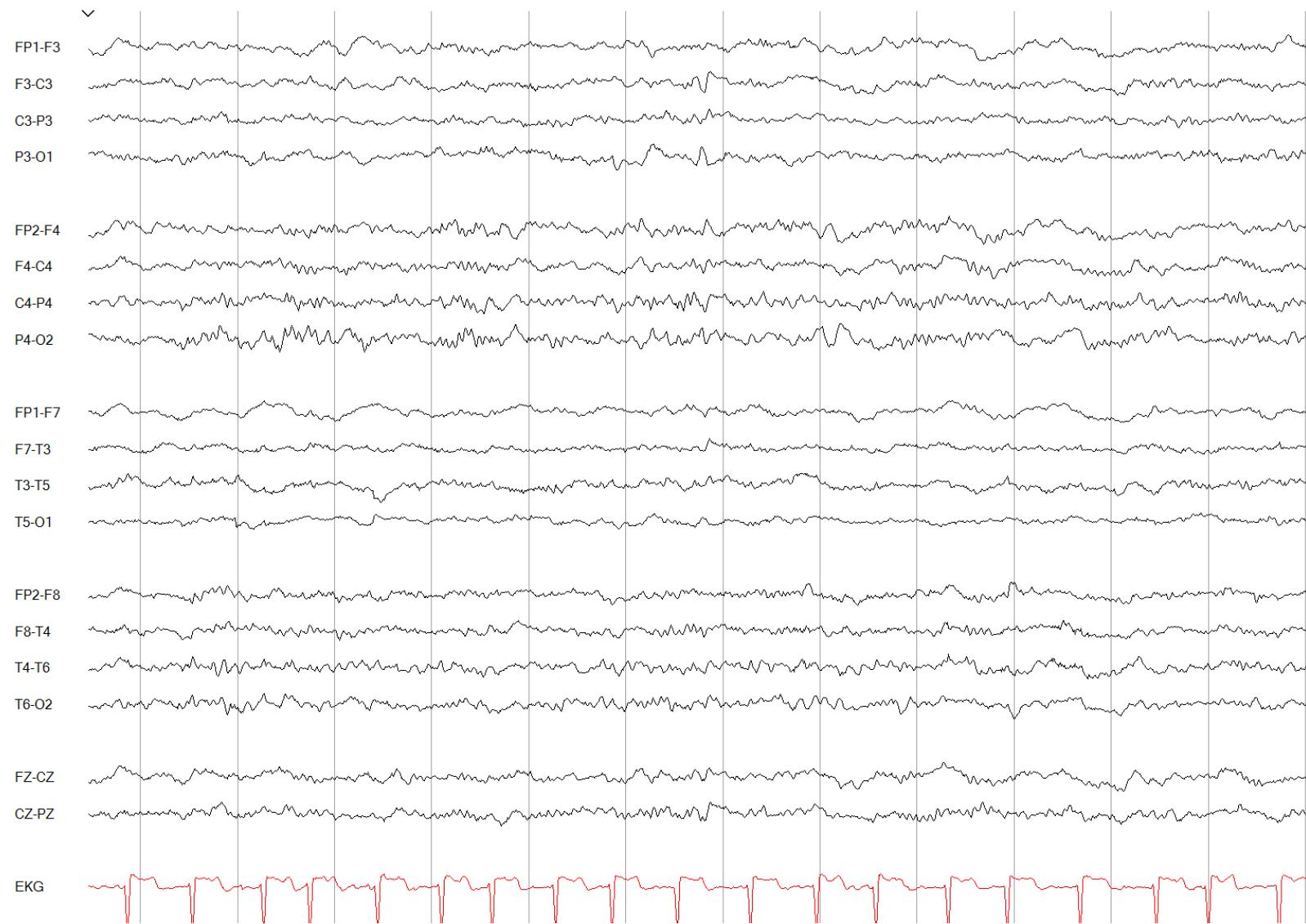
# Ischemic Stroke

- 91 patients with acute ischemic stroke
  - 33 (36%) initially had normal CT scans
    - 16 (48%) showed lateralized EEG abnormalities
    - All 16 showed cortical infarctions on follow-up CT scans corresponding to the EEG findings
  - 58 cortical infarctions
    - Lateralized EEG abnormalities
      - 80% of MCA
      - 86% of watershed
  - 12 lacunar infarctions with negative initial CT scans had normal acute EEGs

# Prediction of Malignant Course

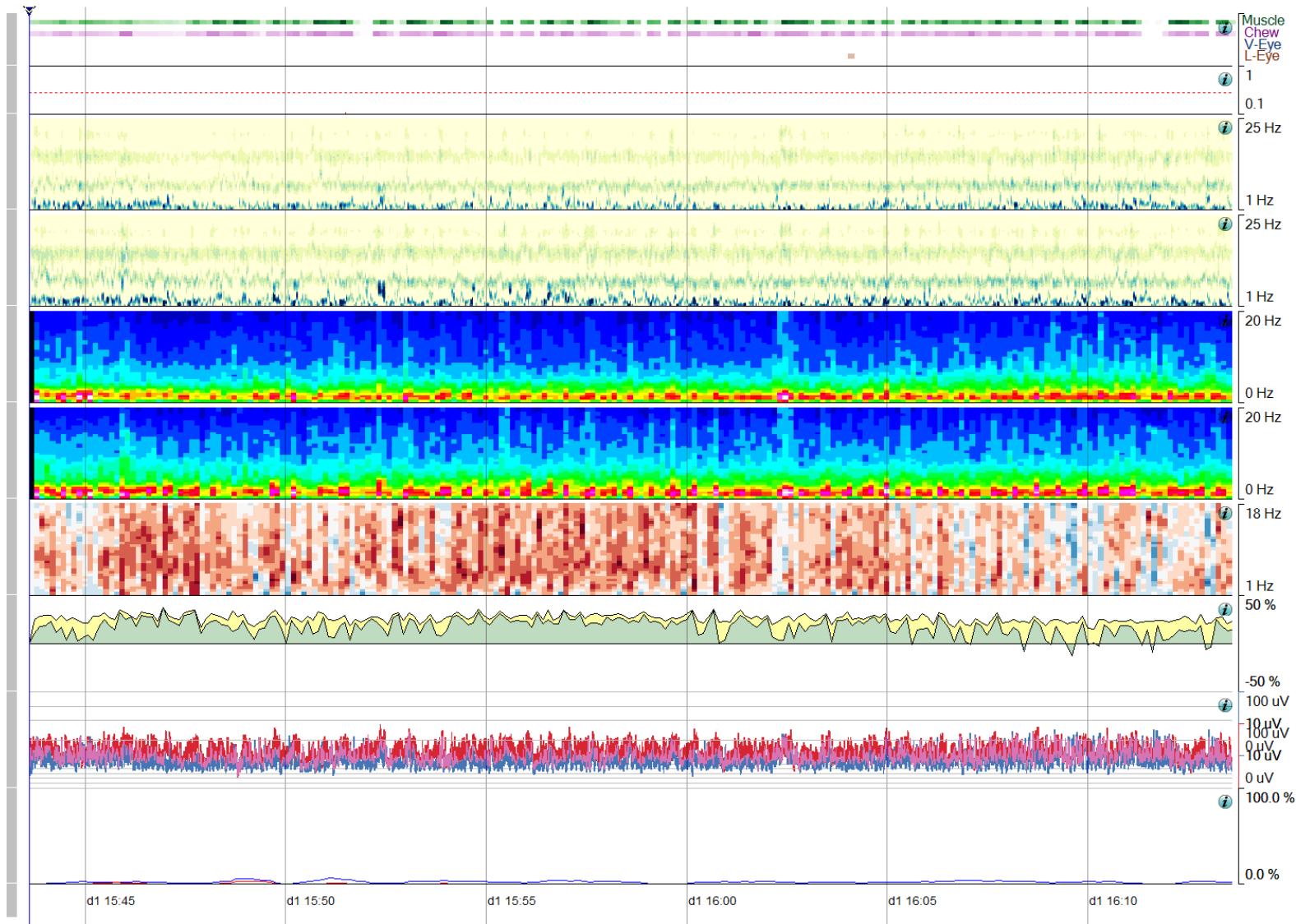
- RAWOD
  - Regional Attenuation WithOut Delta
  - Patients with large acute ischemic stroke
  - Less likely to benefit from thrombolysis
  - Likely to develop cerebral edema

# RAWOD



# RAWOD: QEEG

Artifact Reduction ON



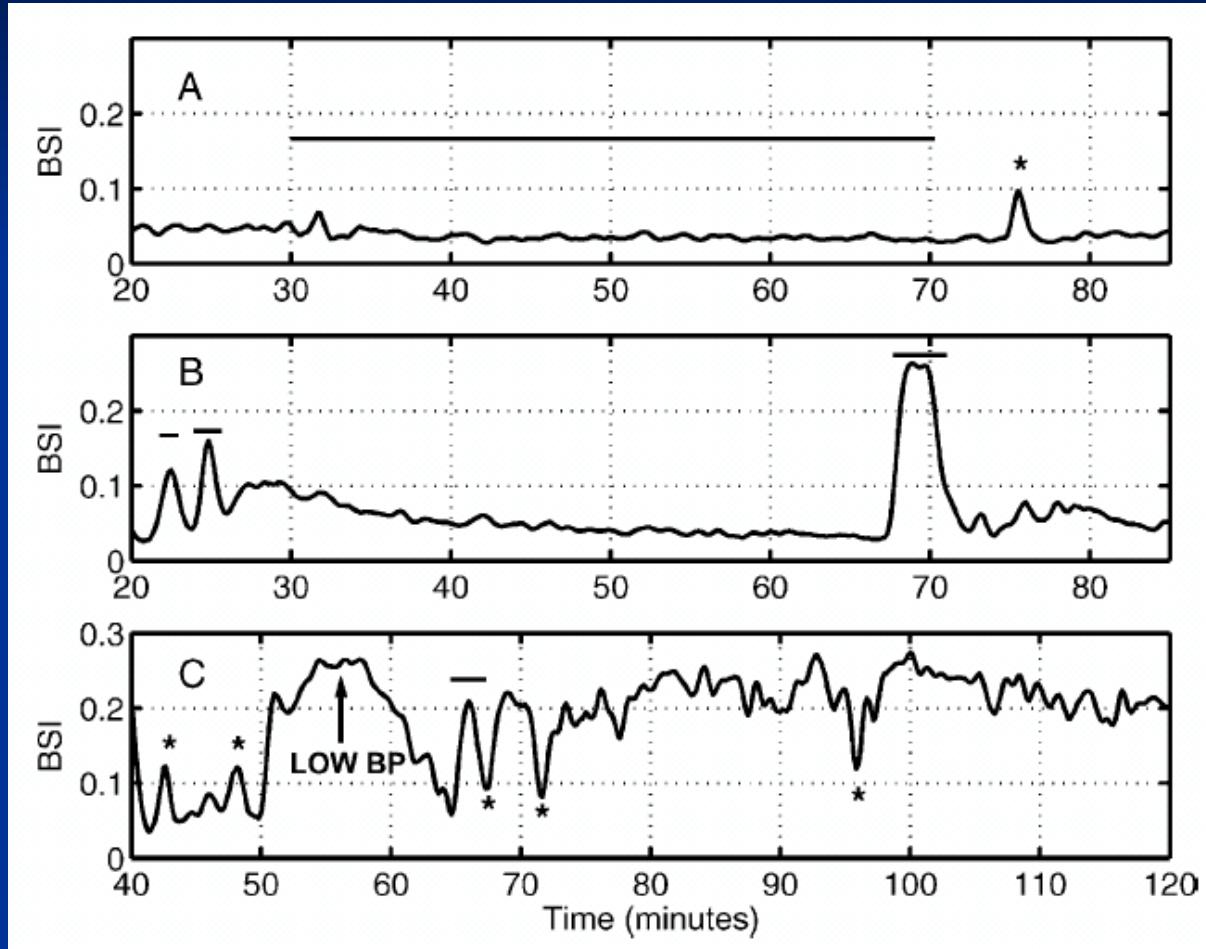
# Prediction of Malignant Course

- 25 patients with large (>50%) middle cerebral artery (MCA) infarction
  - 12 malignant, 13 benign course
- EEG within 24 hours, visual analysis
- Predictors
  - Benign course: absence of delta activity, presence of theta and fast beta frequencies
  - Malignant course: diffuse slowing (< 8 Hz), slow delta activity (< 1 Hz), loss of fast beta in the ischemic hemisphere

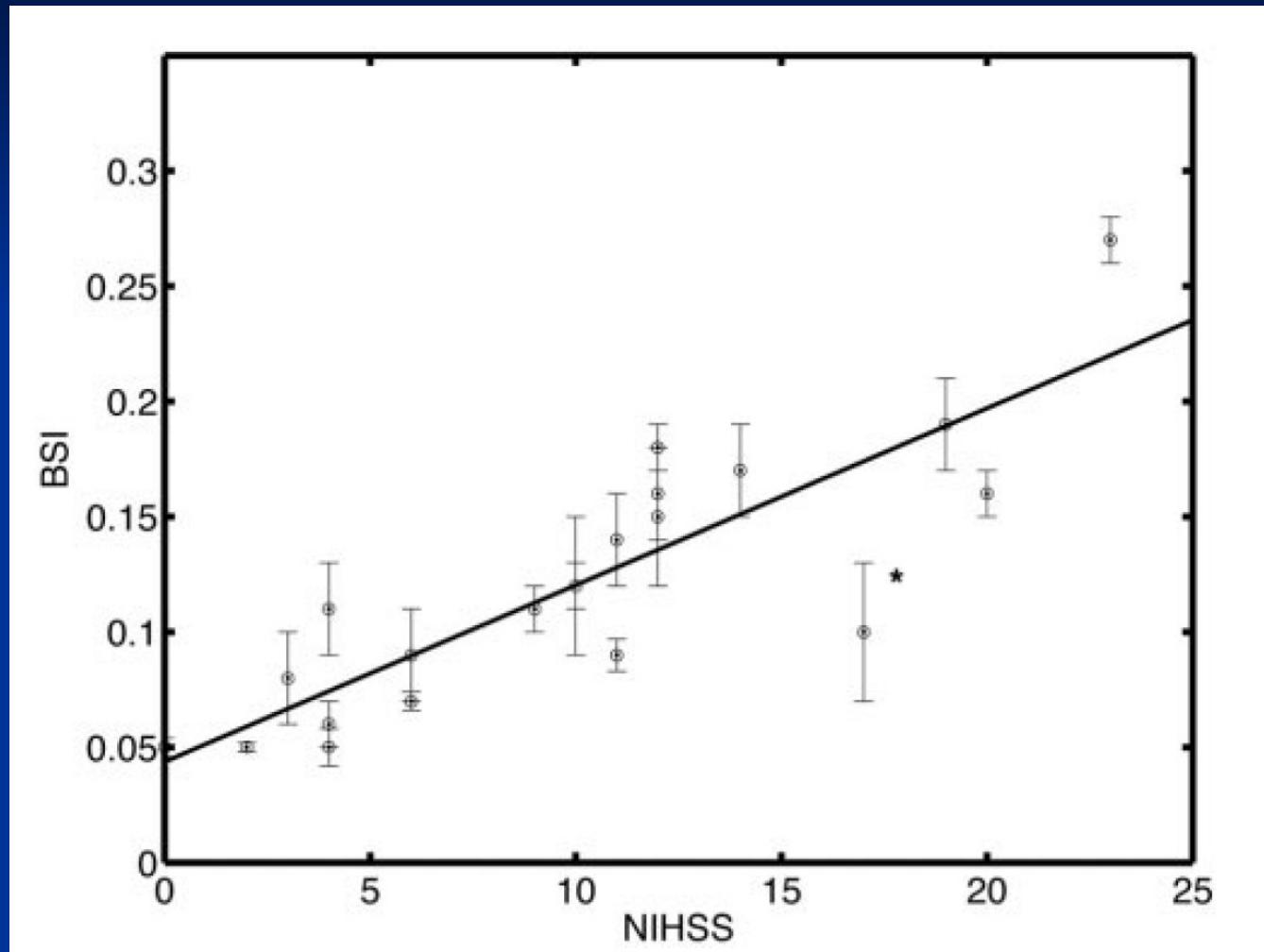
# Asymmetry Indices

- Brain Symmetry Index (BSI)
  - Single numerical value: sums absolute values of the differences at each homologous electrode pair for all frequencies
    - 0: perfect symmetry
    - 1: maximal asymmetry
  - Correlates with clinical stroke scales
  - Has been used to follow effect of tPA

# BSI for Carotid Endarterectomy

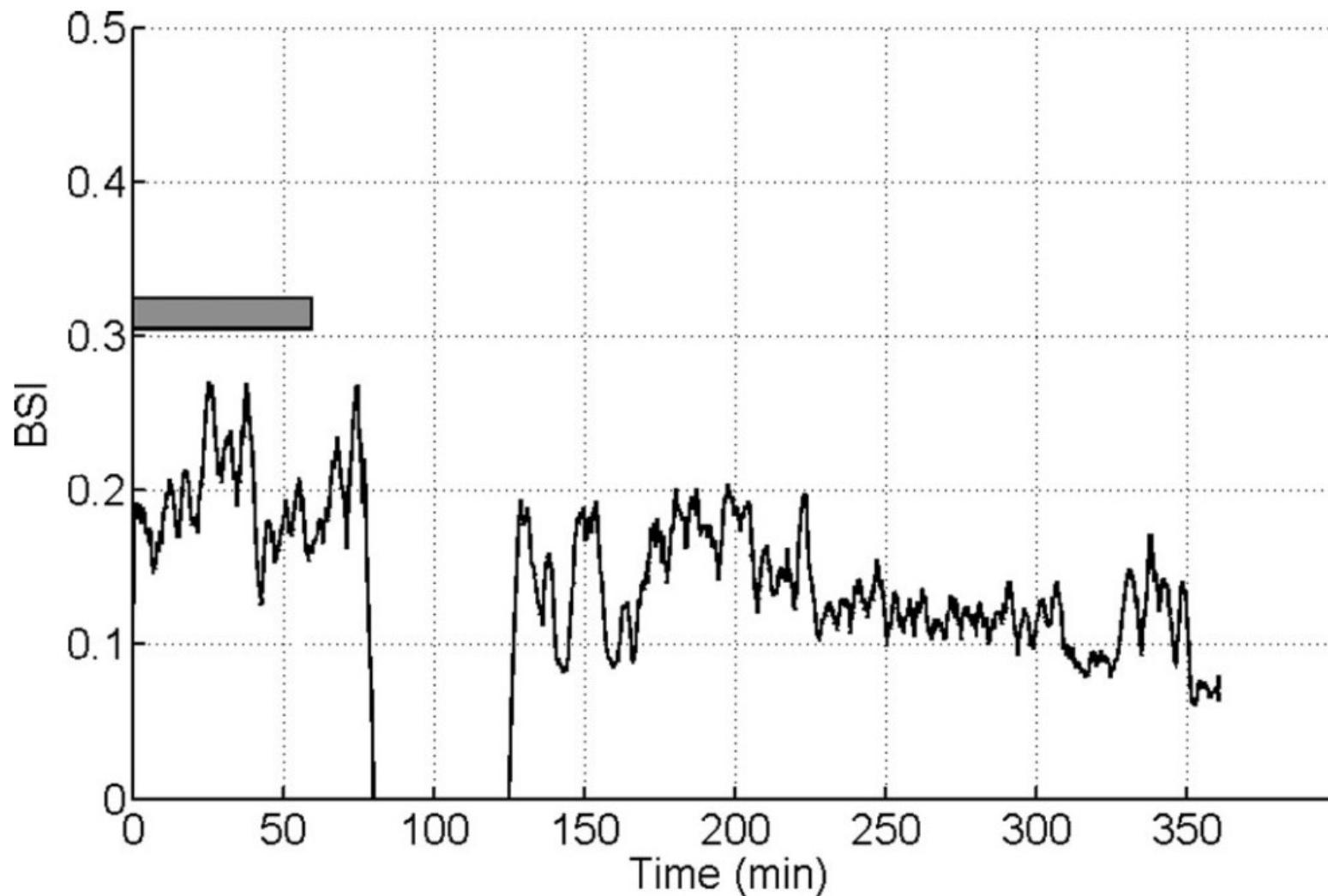


# BSI and NIH Stroke Scale



van Putten MJ, et al. Stroke 2004;35:2489-2492

# BSI: Response to tPA



# Ischemic Stroke: Confounders

- Spontaneous or provoked state changes
- Variations in physiological parameters (BP, ICP, cerebral perfusion pressure)
- Sedative medications
- Artifacts (EMG, electrode)

# Ischemic Stroke: Caveats

- Differential diagnosis of lateralized slowing / loss fast
  - Focal postictal states
  - Hemiplegic migraine
- Cortical infarctions < 3 cm may not show EEG changes
- Lacunar infarcts often show normal EEG
- Medial lesions may produce bilateral rather than focal EEG changes
- Almost no data on continuous EEG monitoring to detect worsening ischemia in real time

# Conclusions

- EEG is a useful monitoring tool for cerebral ischemia
  - Large vessel territorial ischemia
  - Good sensitivity, moderate specificity
- Retrospective studies have demonstrated helpful QEEG methods in CEA, SAH
  - Limited by
    - Lack of specificity (hydrocephalus, sedatives, etc)
    - Artifacts
- No prospective real-time analysis
- Need prospective randomized blinded trials