

NEANU

North of England
Acute Neurology
Update

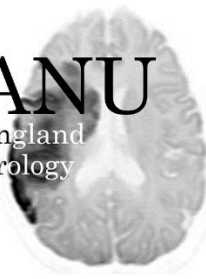


The art of: Fits, faints and funny turns

Mohanned Mustafa

Disclosures

None



Contents

- Clinical assessment
- Differentials
- Examples with videos
- Take home messages

Clinical assessment

- History
- History
- History
- An accurate description of the event is the single most important tool

History

- Before
 - Aura, automatisms, vacant stare, cry
- During
 - Eyes open/closed, head deviation, colour change, motor activity
- After
 - Alertness, recall, incontinence, tongue biting
- Prior history of unexplained blackouts or vacant episodes
- Risk factors for seizures

Clinical assessment

- General examination
- Neurological examination
 - Alertness
 - Focal deficit
 - Reflexes
 - Plantars
- ECG, blood glucose, FBC, U&E, LFT, Mg, Ca

Inter-ictal EEG

- *“a routine inter-ictal EEG is one of the most abused investigations in clinical medicine and is unquestionably responsible for great human suffering”* - Chadwick D. Diagnosis of epilepsy. Lancet. 1990;336:291–5
- Not to be used to diagnose a seizure
- Useful to classify epilepsy syndromes
- Ictal EEG useful for distinguishing between epileptic and non-epileptic

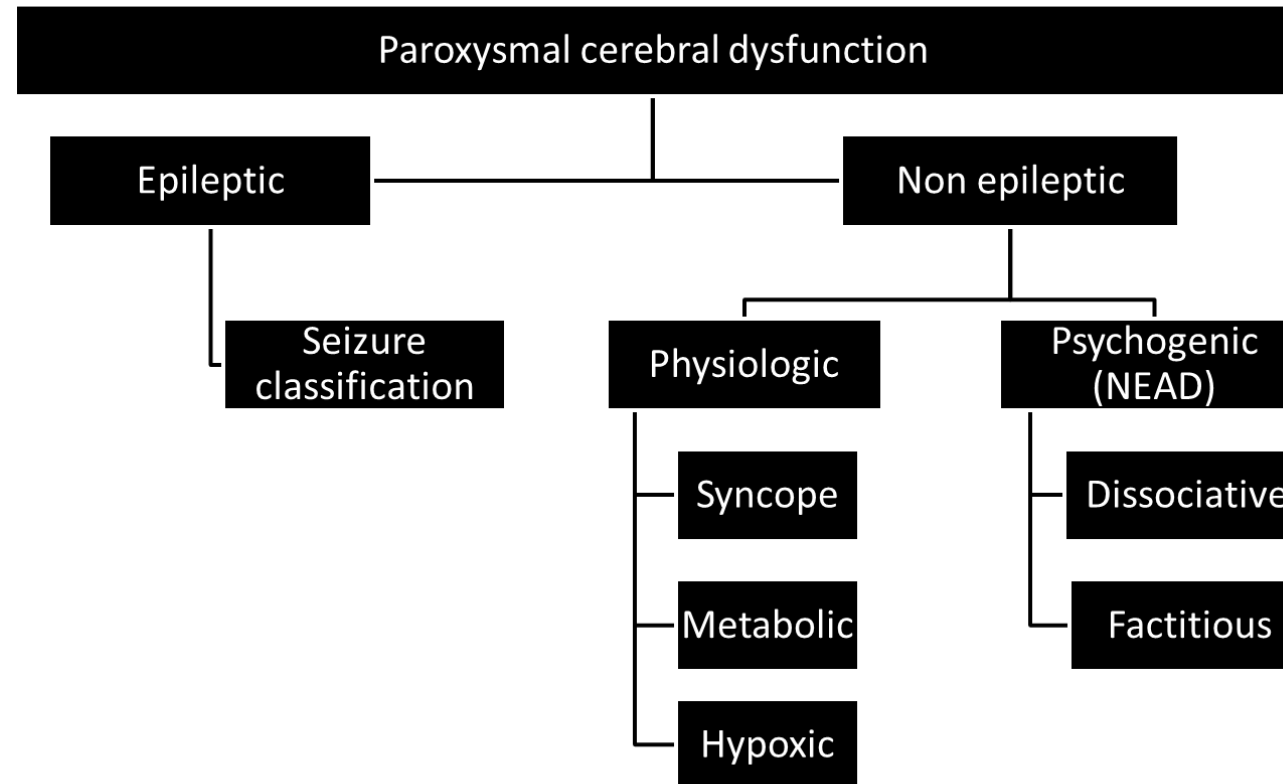
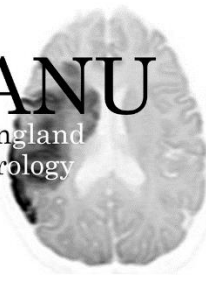
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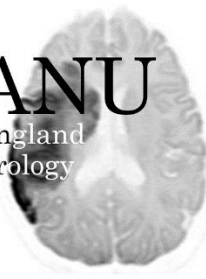
Imaging

- Useful for focal onset seizures
- CT in the acute setting
- MRI as an outpatient

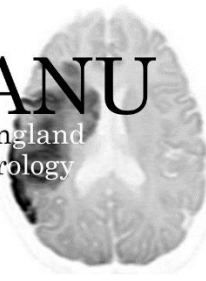
Differentials

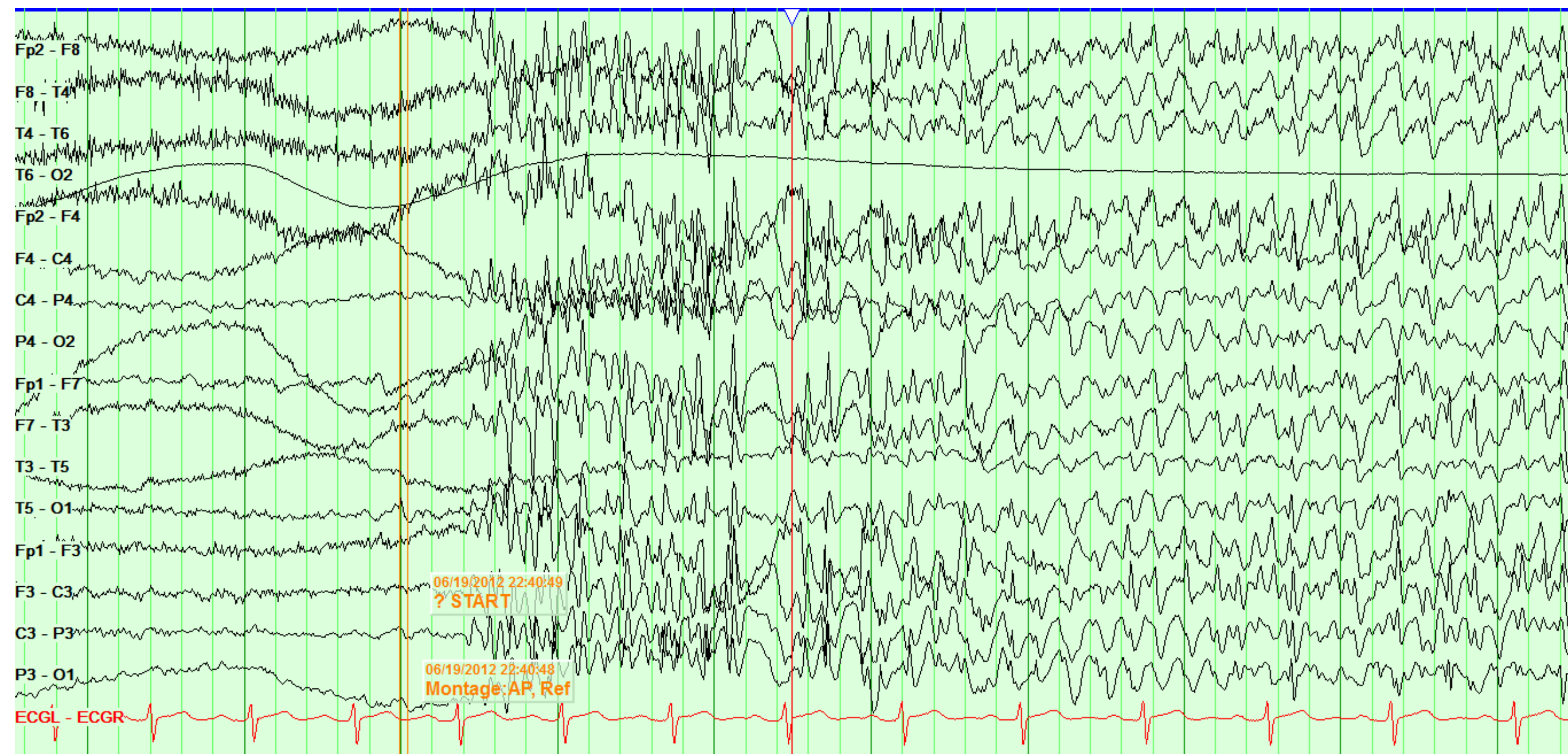


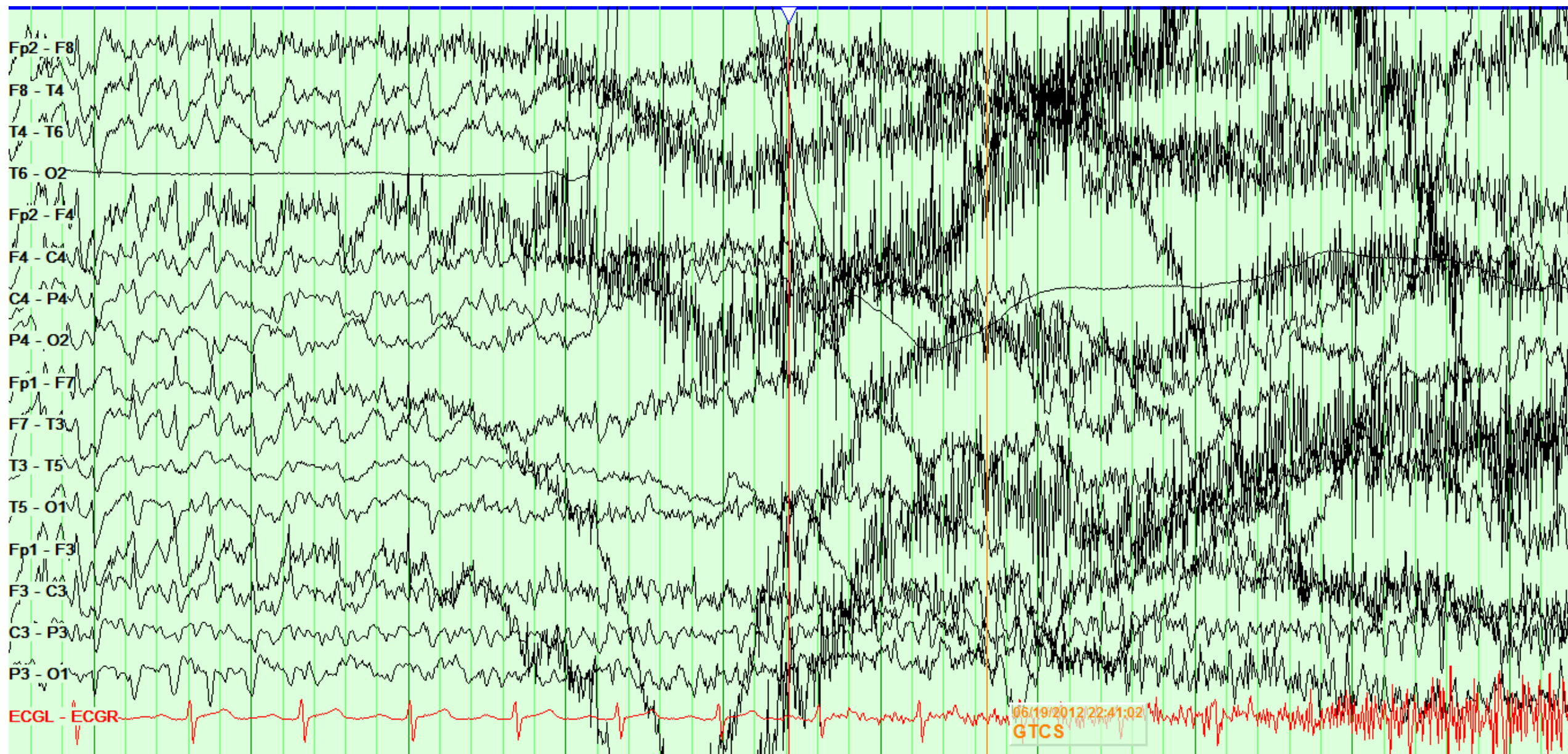
Examples

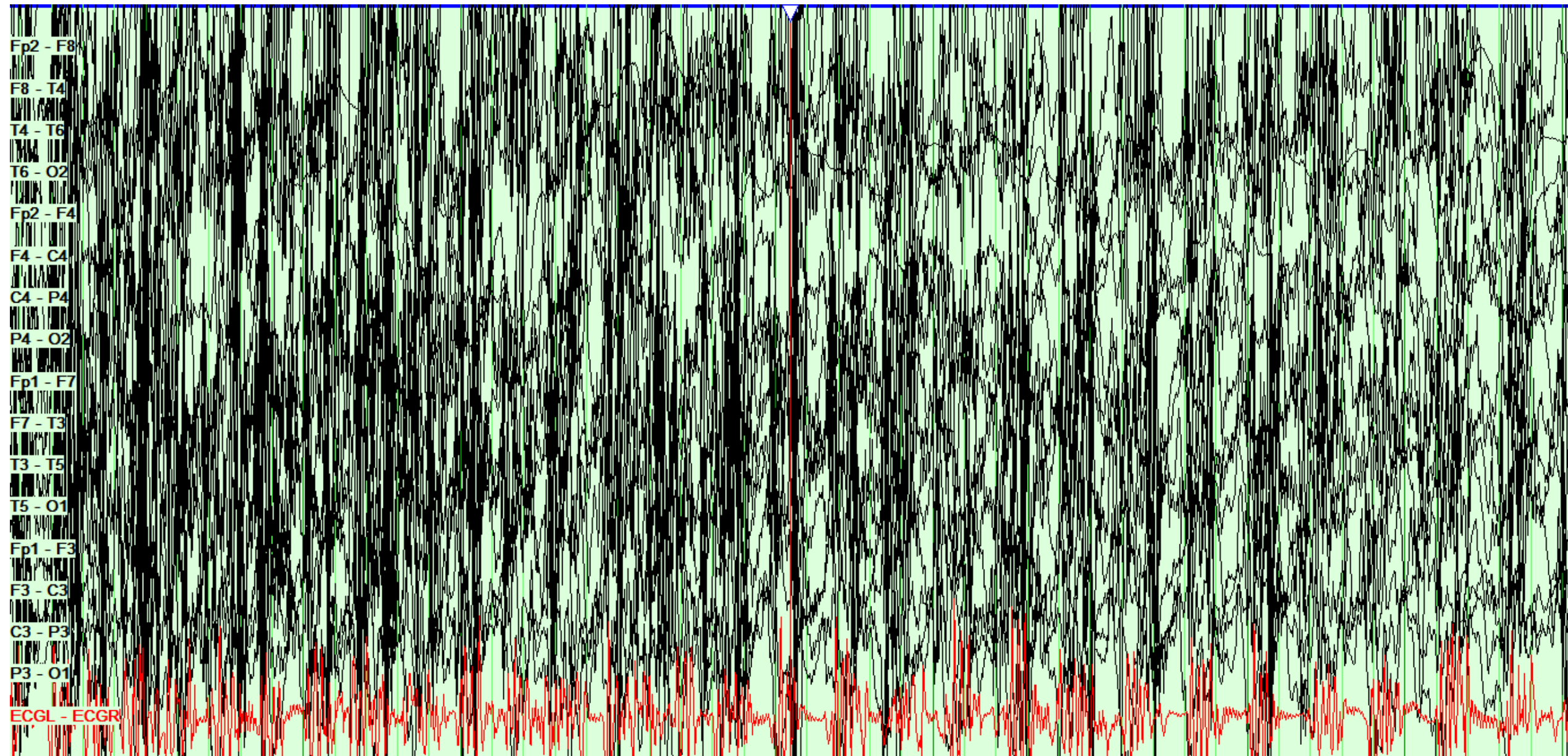


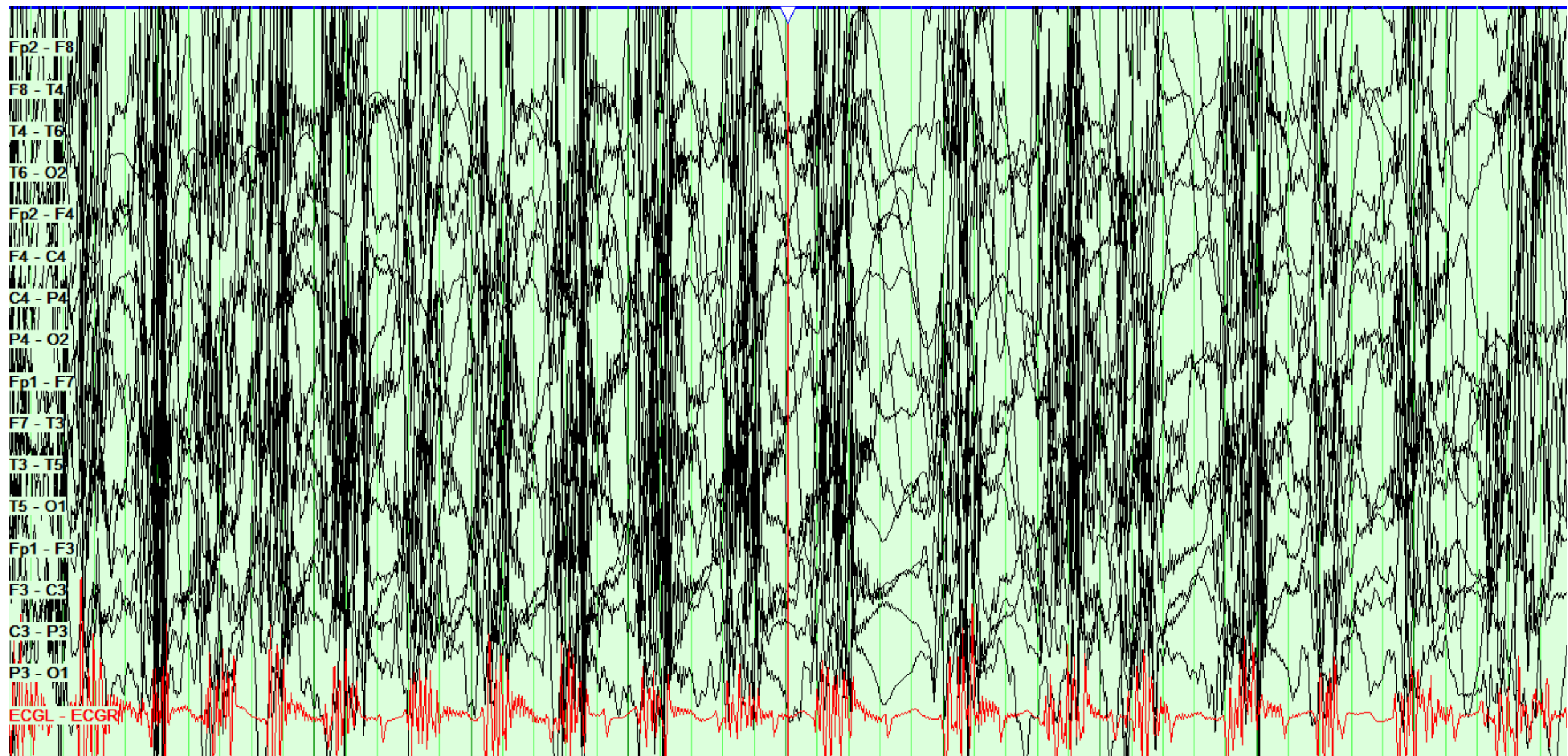
Epileptic seizure

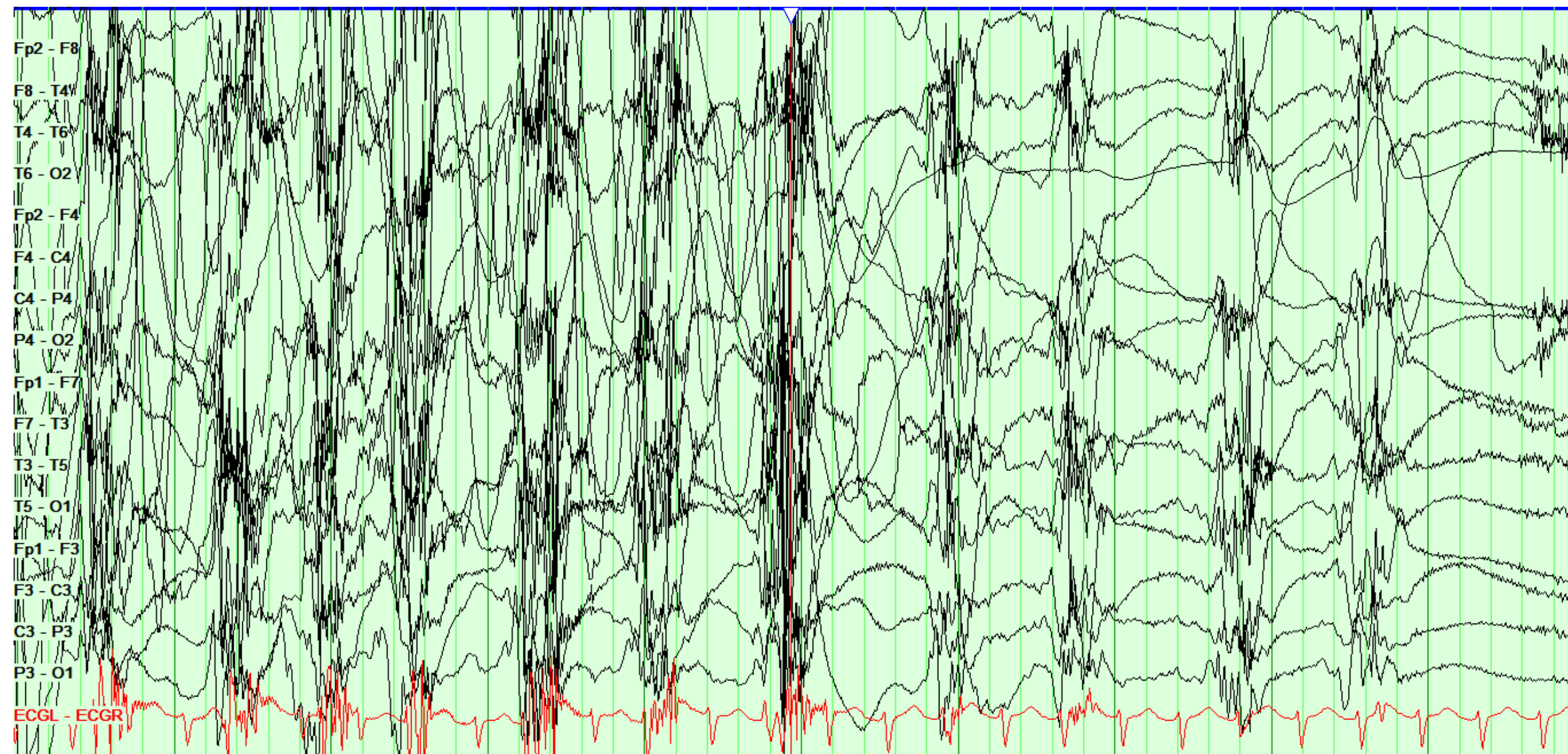




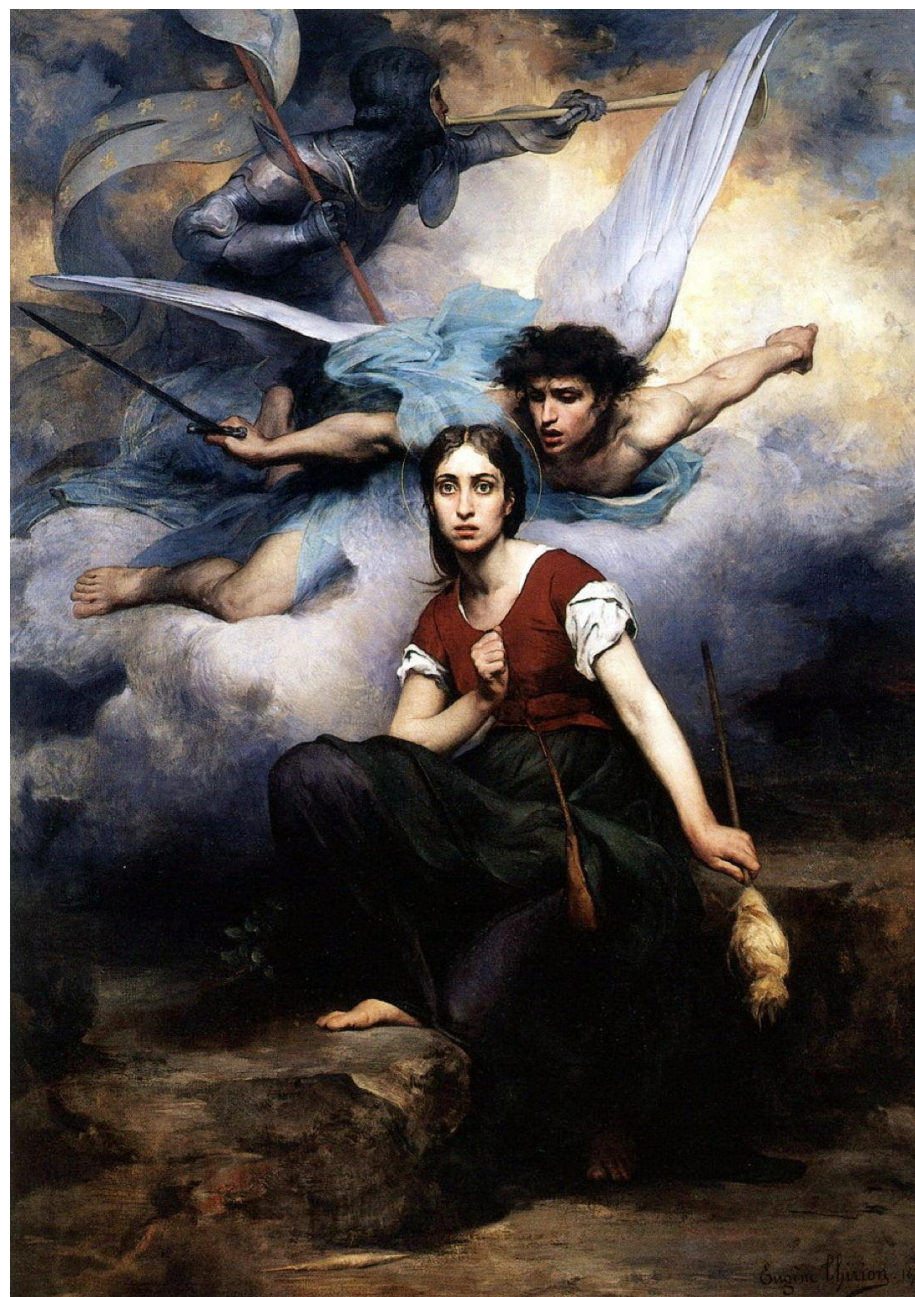






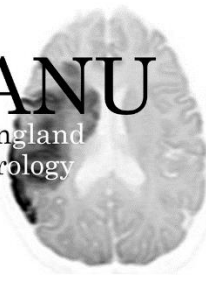


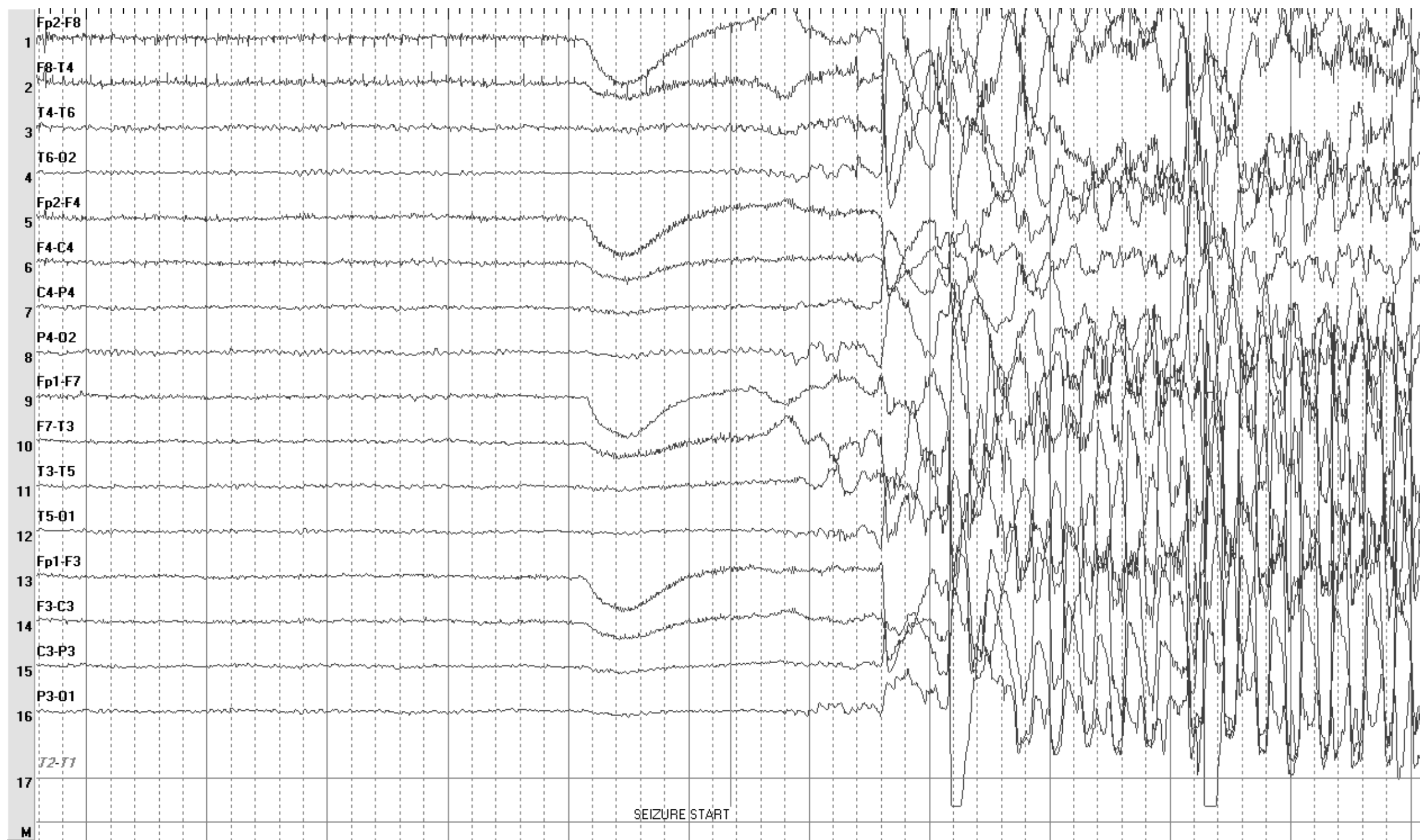


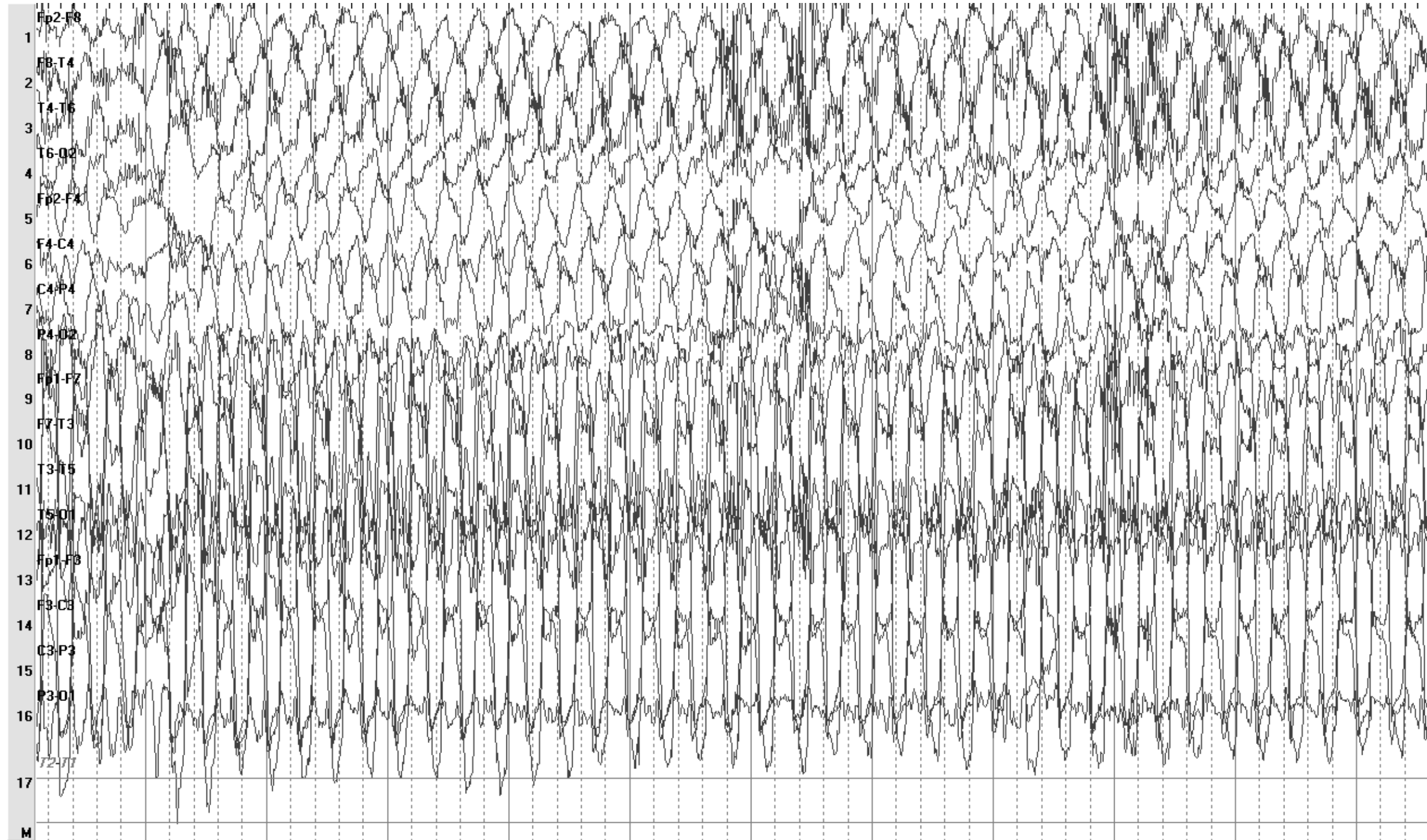


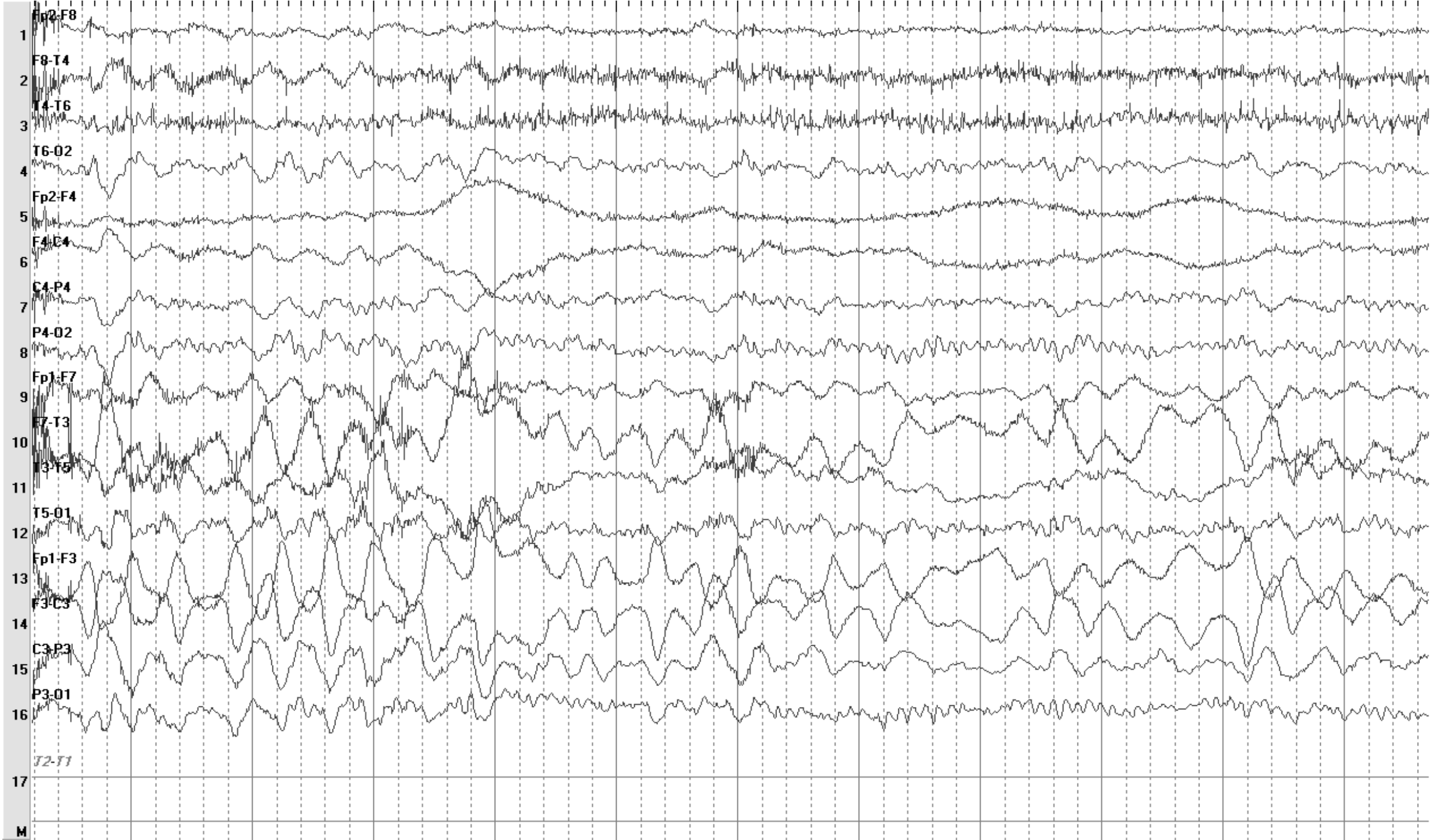
Eugène Romain Thirion, Joan of Arc Hearing Voices (1876)

Non-epileptic attacks



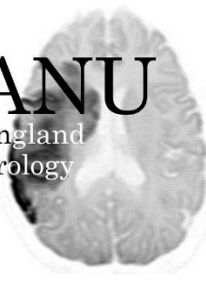








André Brouillet. A Clinical Lesson at the Salpêtrière (1887)

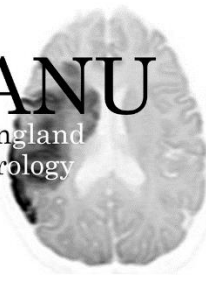


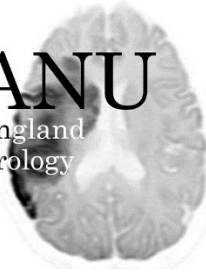
Non epileptic attack disorder
Psychogenic non epileptic seizures
Dissociative attacks

- Not malingering
- High frequency of attacks
- Prolonged attacks
- Discontinuous (stop and go)
- Irregular, asynchronous activity
- Side to side head movements
- Pelvic thrusting or opisthotonos posturing
- Attacks in medical situations
- History of medically unexplained conditions



Syncope





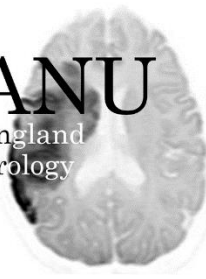
John Singleton Copley. The Death of the Earl of Chatham (1781)

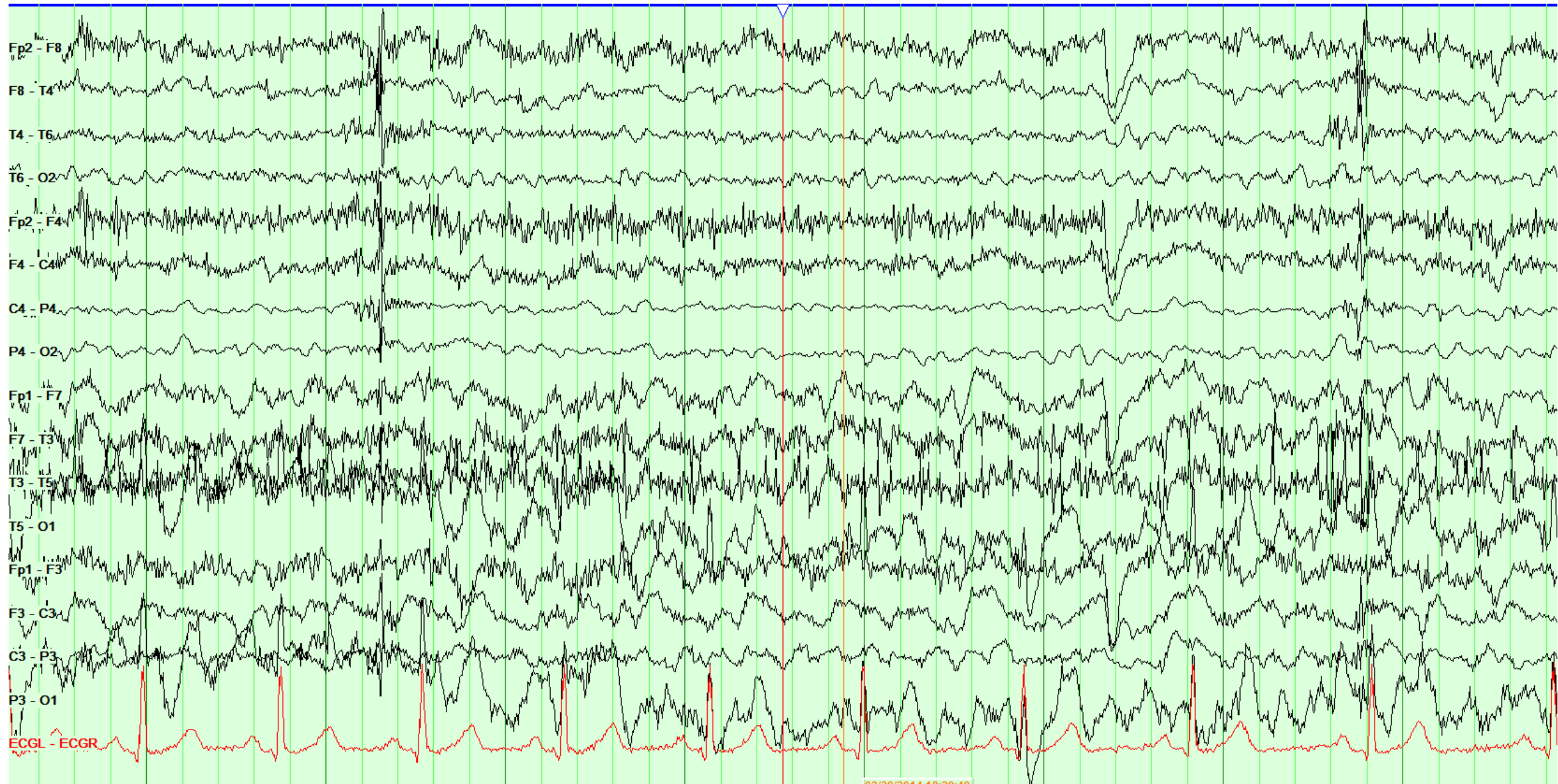
Syncope

- Some motor activity is common
 - Multifocal twitching
 - Occasionally stiffening
- More pronounced in
 - Prolonged (not recumbent)
 - Severe (cardiogenic)
- Distinguishing from GTCS
 - Typical prodrome in vasovagal syncope
 - Brevity
 - Lack of post ictal features

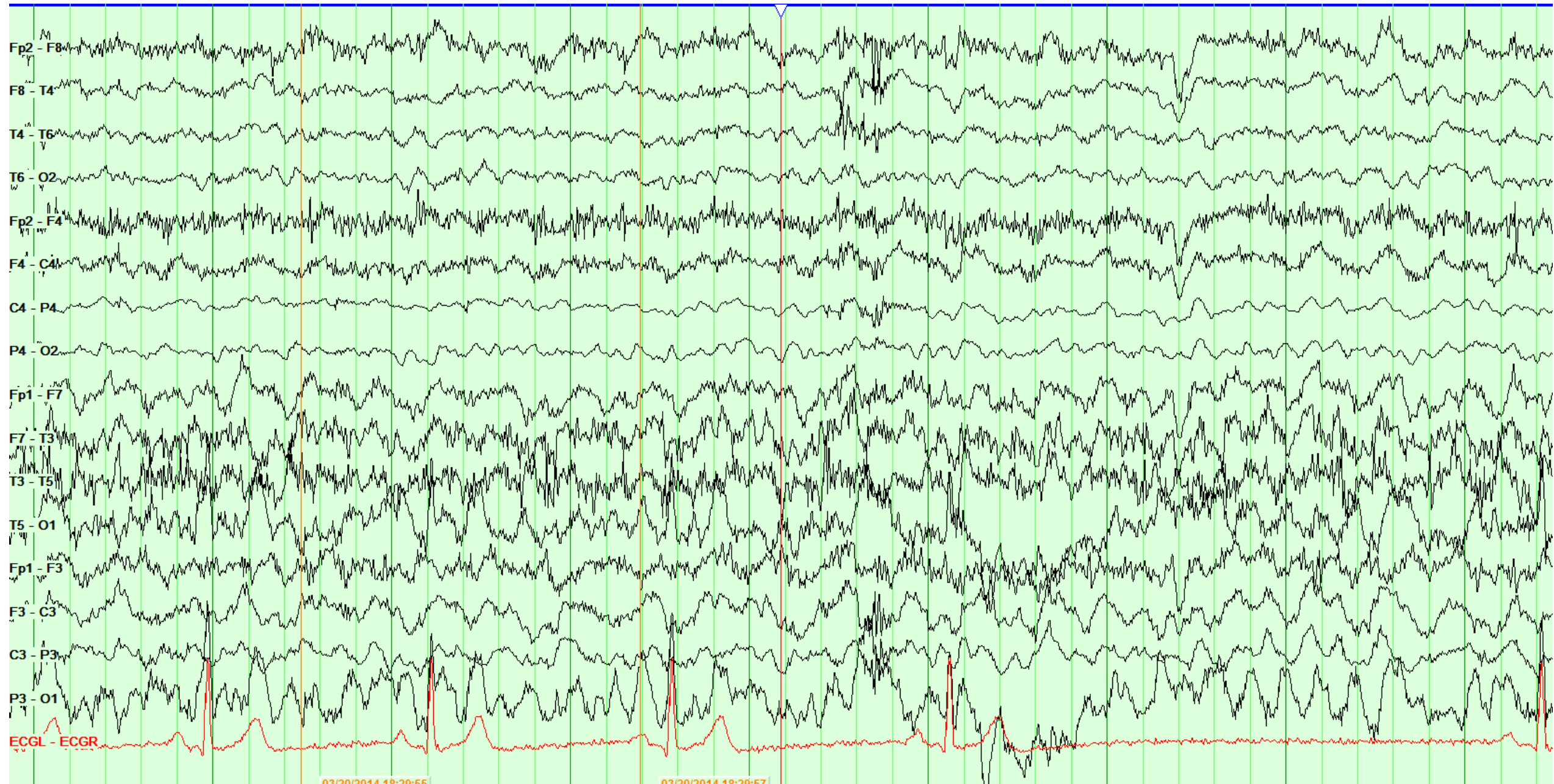
Quiz

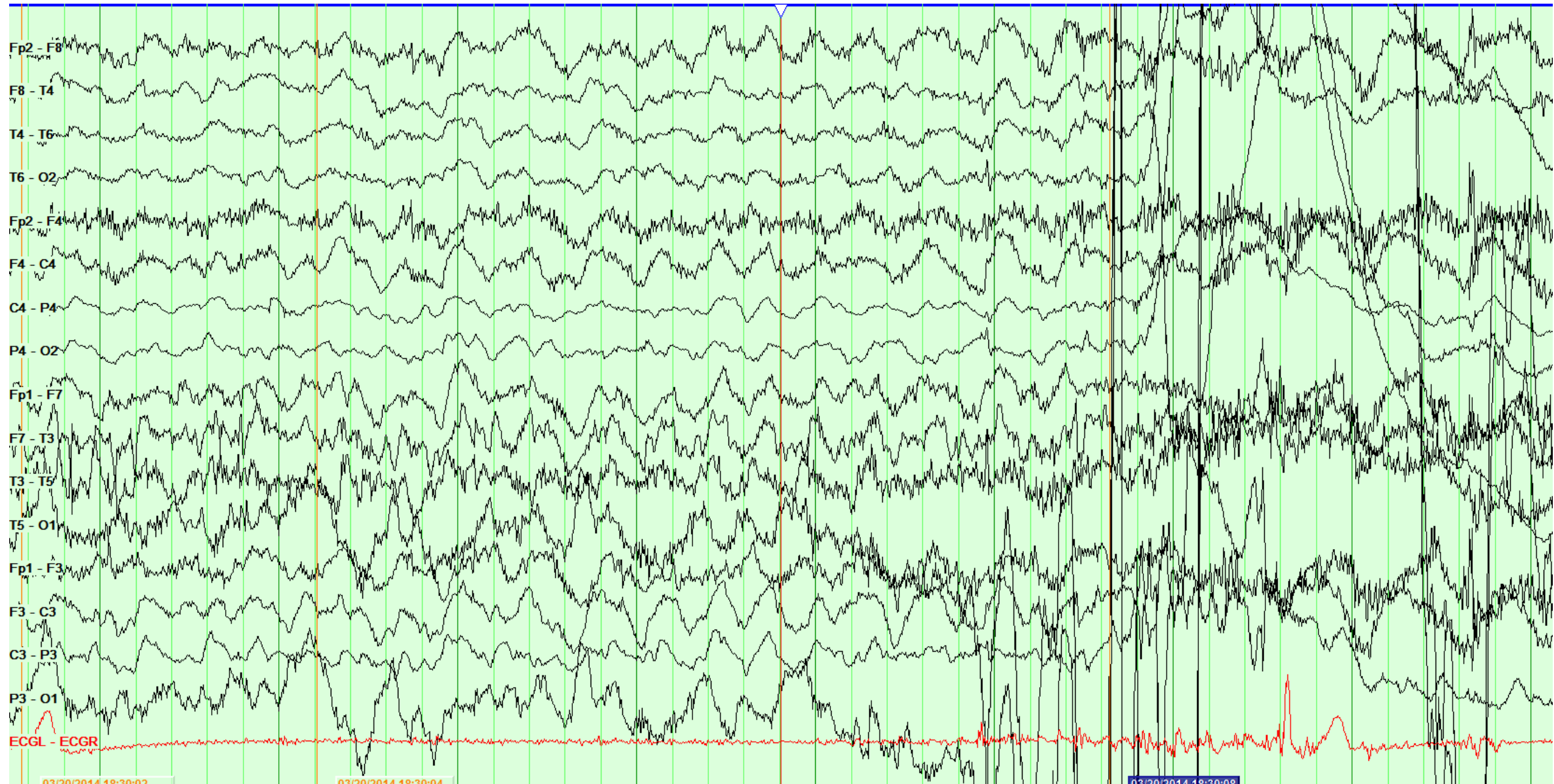
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03/20/2014 18:30:02

03/20/2014 18:30:04

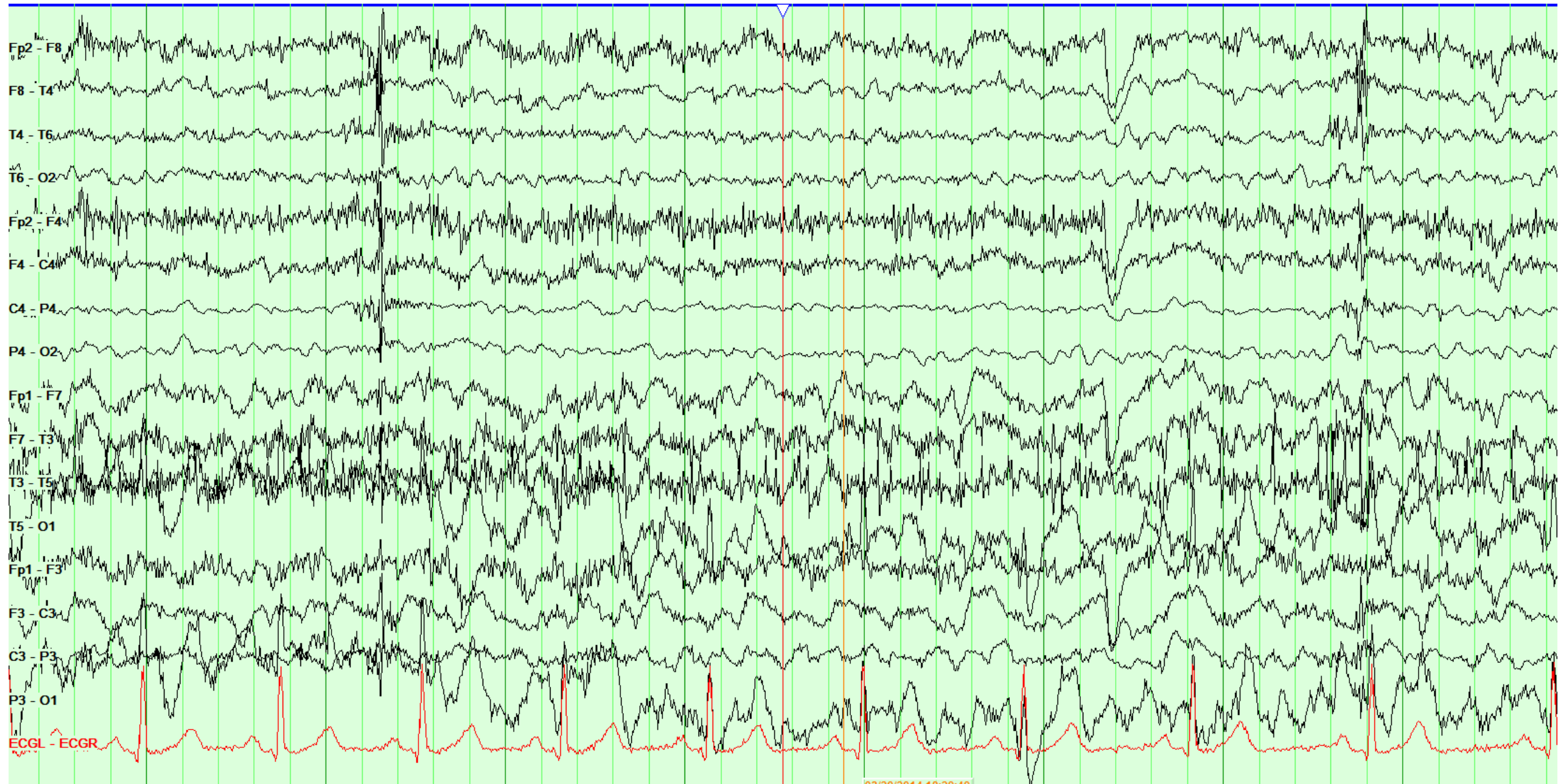
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What is the nature of the event?

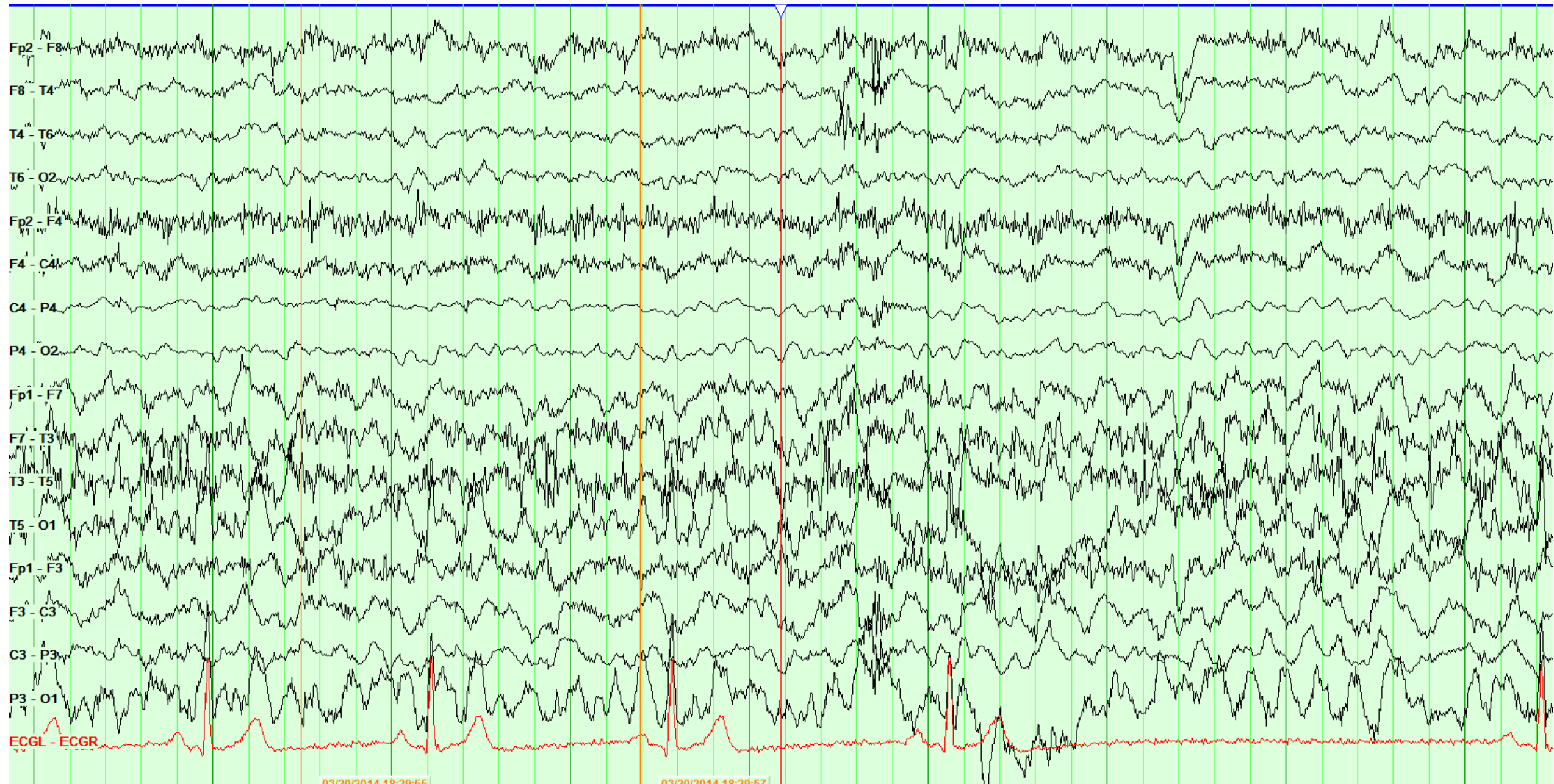
- A – Seizure
- B – Syncope
- C – Non-epileptic attack
- D – Other

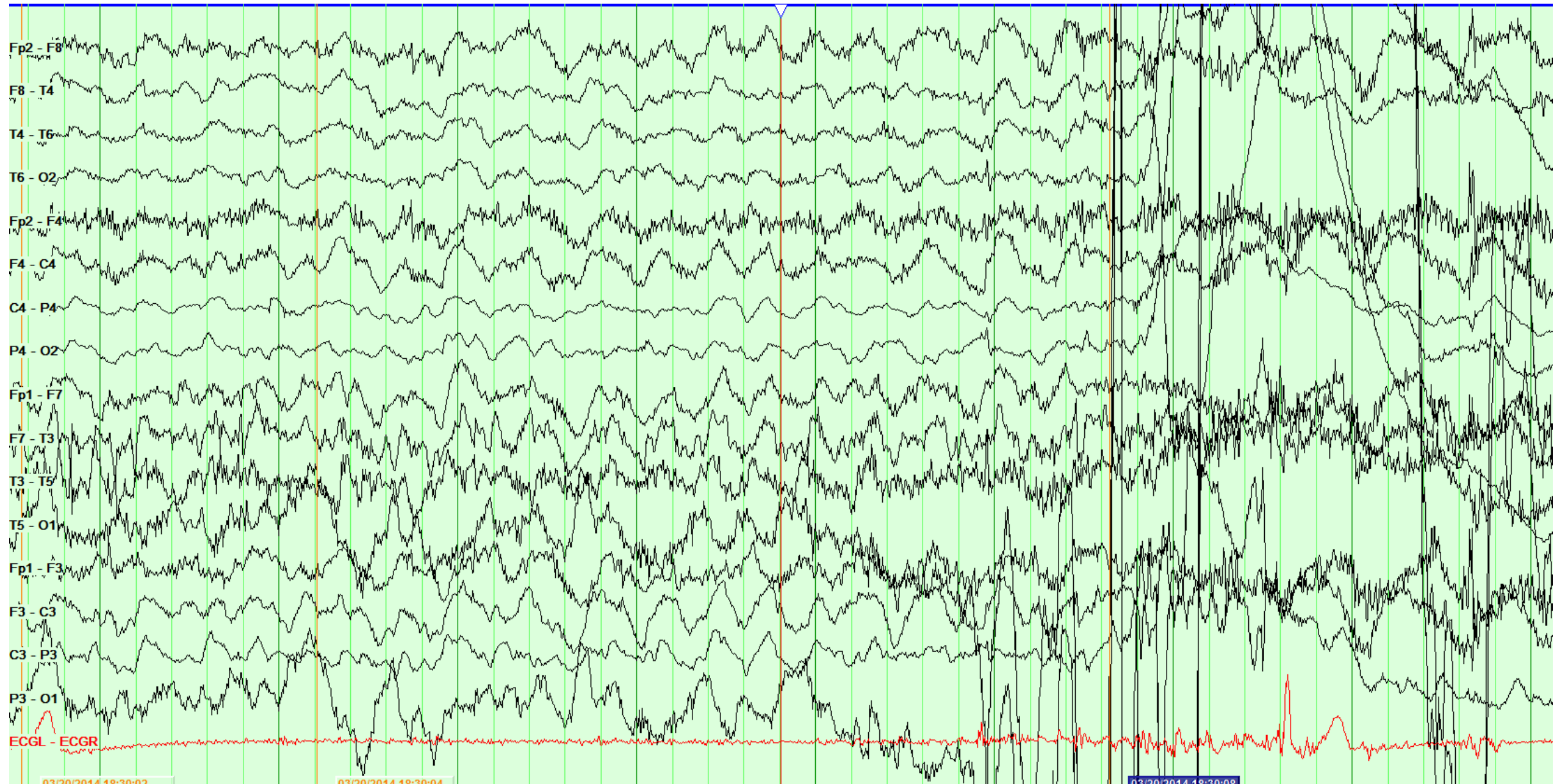
Ictal asystole

- Rare
- Seen most often in drug-resistant epilepsy
- Temporal lobe most frequent



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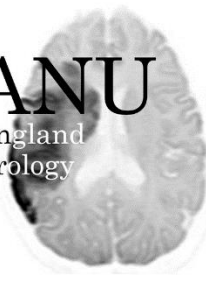




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What is the nature of the event?

- A – Seizure
- B – Syncope
- C – Non-epileptic attack
- D – Other

Frontal lobe seizures

- Can be bizarre, often misdiagnosed
- Multiple stereotyped episodes per night
- Behavioural reaction of fear
- Brief, abrupt onset and offset
- Vocalisation
- Large amplitude proximal limb movements
- Axial turning

Take home messages

- History is most important
- Careful with EEG
- Typical epileptic seizures, non-epileptic attacks and syncopal episodes
- More strange epileptic seizures than non-epileptic attacks

Thank you

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