

# Sleep Study 101: Beyond the AHI

Lindsay McCullough, MD, FACP  
Assistant Professor  
Rush Sleep Disorders and Research Center

IT'S HOW MEDICINE SHOULD BE®

# Disclosures

---

- I have no conflicts of interest to disclose

# Objectives

---

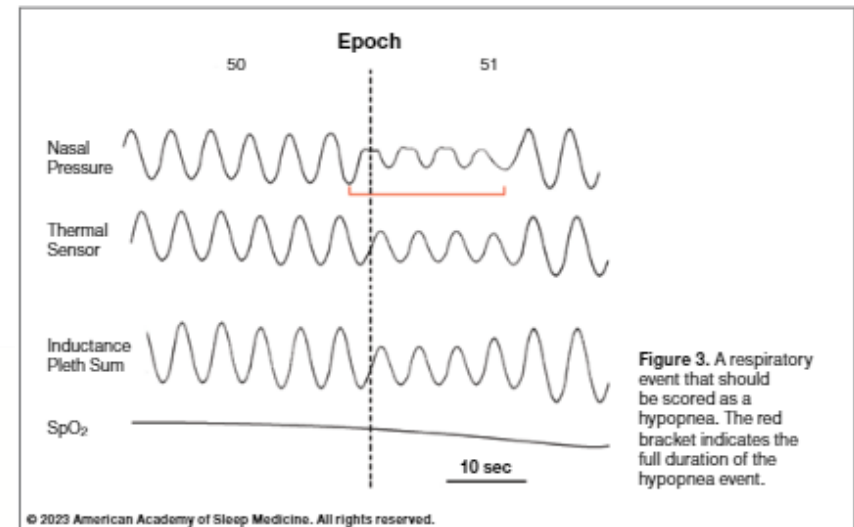
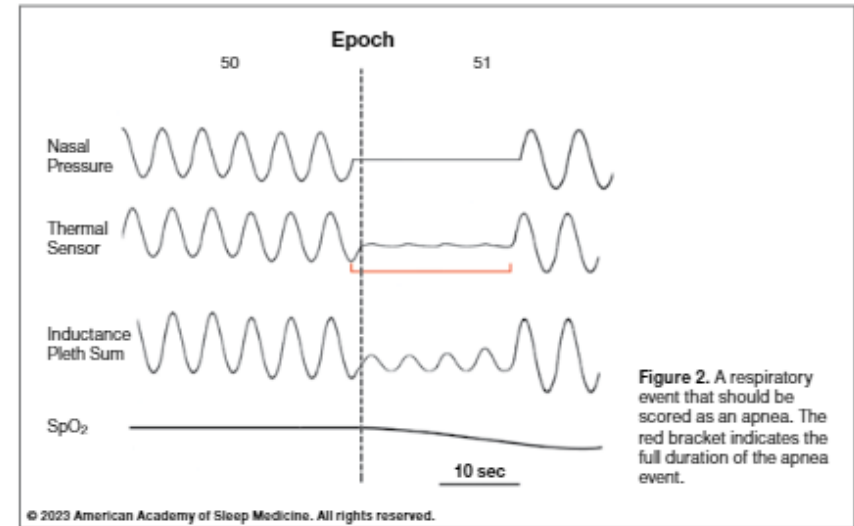
- Recognize types of sleep testing to evaluate for sleep disordered breathing
- Interpret nuances in AHI, including body position, REM vs NREM, centrals vs obstructive, and hypoxic burden
- Analyze the hypnogram on a sleep study report
- Recognize comorbid sleep disorders on a sleep study report

# Definitions

- Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)
  - Obstructed airway despite effort
- Central Sleep Apnea (CSA)
  - Cessation of breathing without effort
- Sleep disordered breathing (SDB)
  - Can be OSA or CSA
- Complex sleep apnea
  - Combination of OSA and CSA

# Apnea-Hypopnea Index

- AHI: # apneas +hypopneas/Total Sleep Time
- Apnea: >90% reduction in airflow
- Hypopnea: >30% reduction in airflow with desat (3% or arousal; \*4% for Medicare)



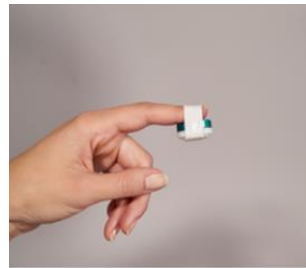
# Severity of Sleep Disordered Breathing

Classification	AHI
Normal or “Primary Snoring”	<5/hr
Mild	5-14.9/hr
Moderate	15-29.9/hr
Severe	>30/hr

# Sleep Studies for SDB - lots of choices!

- Home Sleep Tests

- Nasal pressure, chest and abdominal effort, oximetry
- PAT (peripheral arterial tonometry) \*\*
- 80-90% sensitivity for detecting OSA in high-risk patients (AHI>5/hr)



- Polysomnography (PSG): gold standard for diagnosis

- Baseline
- Split
- Titration

# Things to Focus On

- Clinical History
- Weight and BMI – compare with present
- Sleep Architecture
- Breakdown of AHI
  - Obstructive vs Central
  - Supine vs non-supine
  - Hypoxia
- Other non-respiratory findings
- Hypnogram





# Criteria for Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation Therapy

- 18 years of age or older
  - 13 years or older in patients with Down Syndrome
- Body mass index (BMI) is less than **32** or **40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>**
- PSG or HST (often needed within past 2 years)
- Apnea hypopnea index (AHI) is **15 to 100** events per hour, <25% central or mixed apneas
- CPAP failure or CPAP intolerance or the CPAP has been returned despite CPAP interface and/or setting optimizations or unwilling to use CPAP
- Absence of complete concentric collapse on (DISE) procedure
- No other anatomical findings that would compromise performance of device (e.g., tonsil size 3 or 4 per tonsillar hypertrophy grading scale)

# Clinical History

- 70 yo male with PMH OSA and intolerance to CPAP and Bi-PAP, MAD presents for evaluation.
  - PMH Depression, T2DM, Parkinsonism, cleft lip/palate, 30 lbs weight loss since initial study
  - PSH cleft lip repair, septoplasty/turb reduction
  - Baseline PSG ordered (without MAD)
  - Clinical history on PSG: wearing mandibular advancement device (MAD) aka oral appliance during study

# Sleep Architecture

- In-lab PSGs
- Total Sleep Time
- Sleep efficiency
- REM sleep
- Arousal Index
  - Respiratory
  - Idiopathic

Sleep Continuity and Sleep Architecture

Lights Out: 22:37	Lights On: 05:04	Stage N1 of TST: 13.5 %	Arousal Index: 20.7
Time in bed: 387 minutes	*TST: 322.5 minutes	Stage N2 of TST: 59.7 %	-Index: 20.7
Sleep efficiency: 83.3 %	Sleep latency: 0 min.	Stage N3 of TST: 14.9 %	-PLM: 1.9
*WASO: 63 min.	REM latency: 32.5 min	Stage REM of TST: 11.9 %	-Resp: 11.9
REM Supine: 3 min.	REM Non-Sup: 35.5 min.		

# PSG Respiratory Table

- Obstructive vs Central AHI
  - Beware that mixed apneas typically get lumped into obstructive apneas.
- Supine vs non-supine AHI (w/hypnogram)
- AHI4%: Medicare
- SpO2 mean

## Respiratory Summary: Baseline AHI: 34.2 per hour

Obstructive AHI (per hour):	31.6	Supine AHI (per hour):	58.6
Central AI (per hour):	1.7	Non supine AHI (per hour):	21.9
REM AHI (per hour):	43.6	NREM AHI (per hour):	33.
REM Supine AHI (per hour):	40	REM Non-Supine AHI (per hour):	43.9
SpO2 mean:	92 %	SpO <sub>2</sub> nadir:	85 %
EtCO2 %>=50mmHg	0	Time SpO <sub>2</sub> <=88% (mins):	3
AHI 3%:	34.2	AHI 4%:	23.1

# Non-Respiratory findings

- May be of interest if patient not doing well on current treatment modality or you are primary physician reviewing results

**ECG Analysis:** The ECG demonstrated normal sinus rhythm with average heart rate (HR) awake of 0 bpm, NREM of 68.2 bpm, and REM of 67.7 bpm.

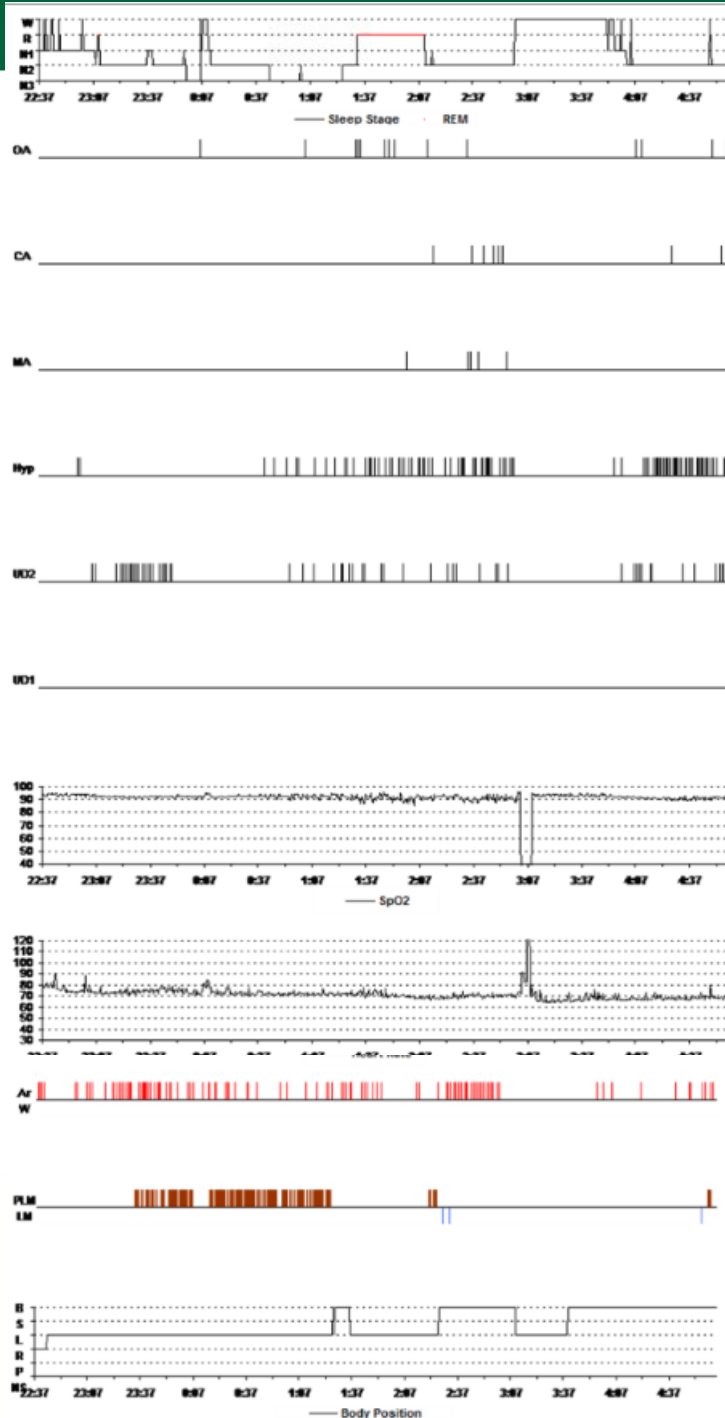
**EEG Analysis:** With the limited montage, no abnormalities were noted.

**Periodic Limb Movements:** Periodic Limb Movements were observed. There were a total of 172 periodic limb movements during sleep (PLMS), of which 10 were PLMS with arousal. The resulting PLMS index was 32. per hour and PLMS index with arousal was 1.9 per hour.

**Other observations:** No other findings including sleep talking or abnormal sleep behavior observed (dream enactment, sleepwalking, bruxism, etc).



- Sleep stage
- Respiratory events
- Oxygen sat
- Heart rate
- Arousals and Limbs
- Body position



# Hypnogram



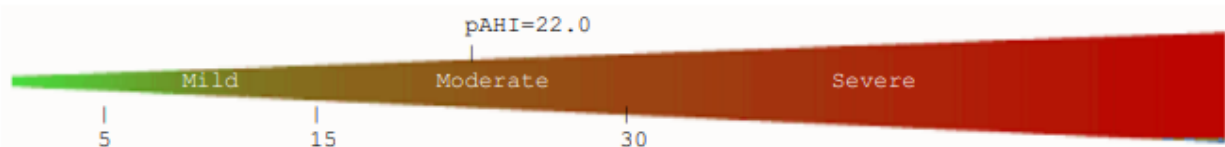
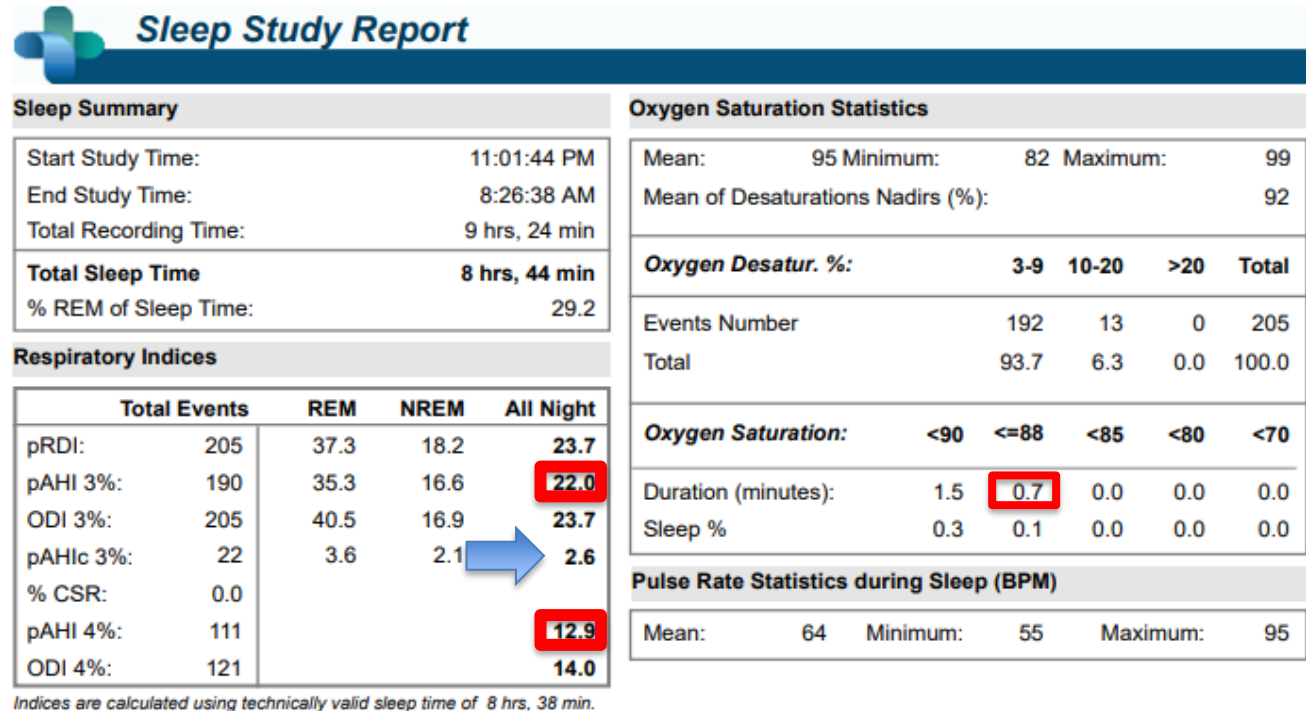
# Interim History

- Patient noted intolerance to MAD and desired evaluation for HGNS
- DISE demonstrated AP collapse
- Inspire placed 6/28/23
- 9/2023: Patient awakes feeling refreshed, wife notes snoring nearly resolved. Using nightly at 2.0 V; but frequent pauses during the night
- Follow-up testing with WatchPAT HST 10/5/23

# WatchPAT on Inspire

“Baseline”

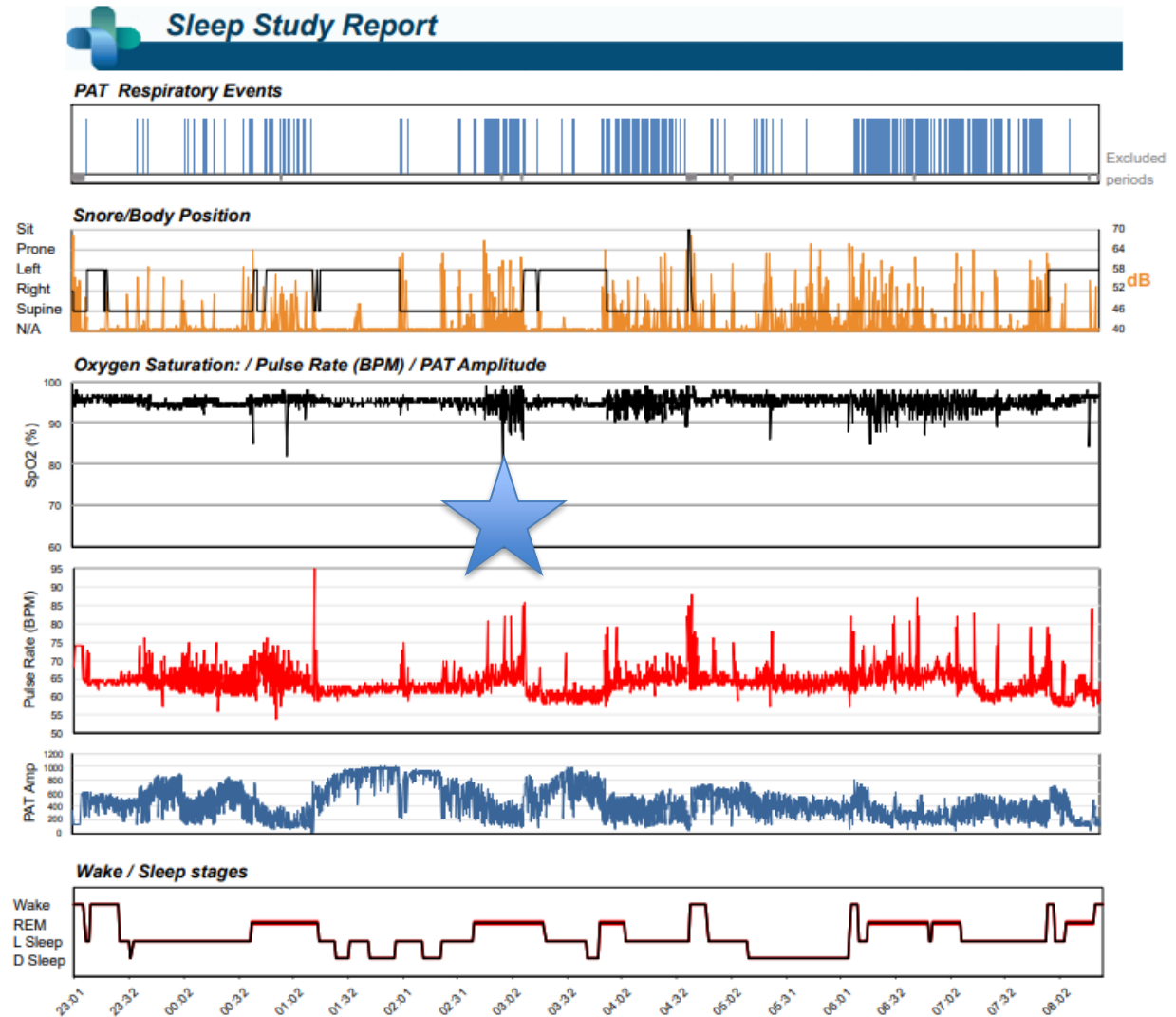
- AHI3%:  
34.2/hr
- AHI4%:  
23.1/hr



\* Reference values are given by physician



# WatchPAT Hypnogram



# WatchPAT Tables

## Sleep Study Report

### Body Position Statistics

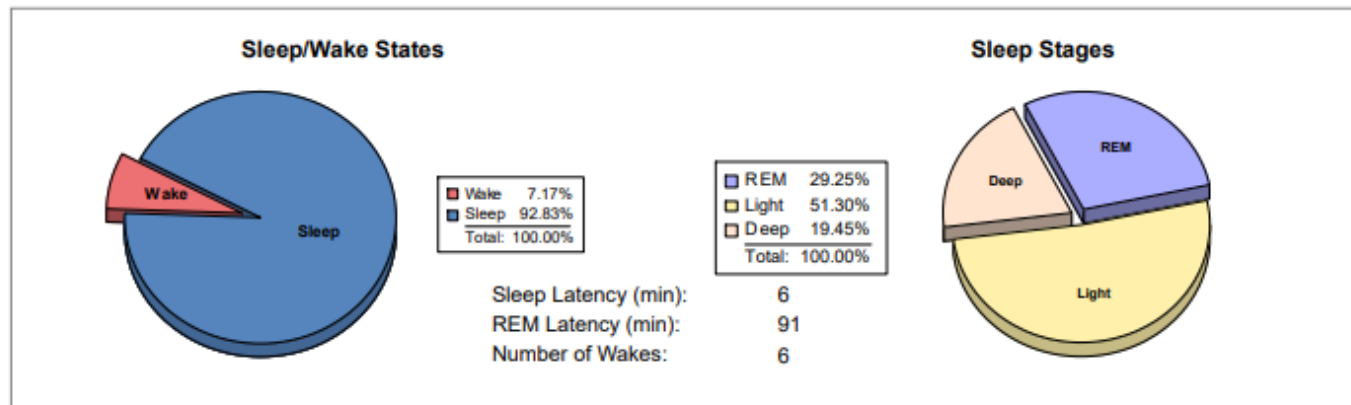
Position	Supine	Prone	Right	Left	Non-Supine
Sleep (min)	380.5	0.0	0.0	143.9	143.9
Sleep %	72.6	0.0	0.0	27.4	27.4
pRDI	29.8	N/A	N/A	7.6	7.6
pAHI 3%	28.2	N/A	N/A	5.5	5.5
ODI 3%	30.3	N/A	N/A	6.3	6.3



### Snoring Statistics

Snoring Level (dB)	>40	>50	>60	>70	>80	>Threshold (45)	Mean: 41 dB
Sleep (min)	171.6	13.7	1.9	0.0	0.0	24.9	
Sleep %	32.7	2.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	4.7	

### Sleep Stages Chart



# Follow-Up

- Advised to up titrate HGNS weekly as tolerated and consider positional therapy (avoiding supine sleep)
- If frequent nocturnal awakenings become issue, consider periodic limb movements (seen on initial study) vs HGNS vs SDB

# Key Points

- Hypnogram = BIG PICTURE
- Positionality is essential (supine vs non-supine)
- Review for central and mixed events (overall AHI review is not enough)
- Know your patient's history

# Questions?

