

Functional Connectivity Changes in Amygdala Subregions of Obstructive Sleep Apnea Patients After Six Months of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure Treatment

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Purpose: Previous studies demonstrated that there was abnormal functional connectivity (FC) in the amygdala subregions in obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), which was associated with cognitive function. However, it is not clear whether these abnormalities can be improved after continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) treatment. Therefore, the aim of this research was to investigate the changes in FC of amygdala subregions with other brain regions after 6 months of CPAP treatment (post-CPAP) in patients with OSA.

Patients and Methods: Fifteen OSA patients underwent Magnetic Resonance Imaging prior to CPAP treatment (pre-CPAP) and following CPAP treatment. The amygdala was divided into six subregions, including bilateral dorsal amygdala (DA), medial amygdala (MA) and ventral amygdala (VA). The FC was calculated by using the amygdala subregions as seeds. A paired sample *T*-test was employed to assess alterations in the amygdala subregions FC of pre-CPAP and post-CPAP OSA patients, and correlation analysis was then conducted to evaluate the association between the changed FC and clinical assessment.

Results: Compared to pre-CPAP OSA patients, post-CPAP OSA patients displayed an enhanced FC between the left DA and the right posterior cingulate cortex (PCC), whereas the FC between the left MA and the right postcentral gyrus, and between the right MA and the left middle frontal gyrus, decreased. Moreover, significant correlation between the FC value of left DA-right PCC and Hamilton Anxiety Inventory scores was found in pre-CPAP OSA patients.

Conclusion: Altered FC between the amygdala subregions and other brain regions in OSA patients induced by CPAP treatment was related to cognitive, emotional, and sensorimotor function. Our study found altered FC between amygdala subregions and cognitive and motor-related brain regions in post-CPAP OSA patients, providing potential neuroimaging indicators for CPAP treatment.

Keywords: obstructive sleep apnea, amygdala, functional connectivity, treatment, emotion

Introduction

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA), the most prevalent form of sleep apnea, is marked by a recurrent partial or total collapse of the upper airway during sleep, leading to intermittent hypoventilation or cessation of airflow despite respiratory effort.¹ The overall population's OSA prevalence ranged from 9% to 38%, with an increase in prevalence with weight and age.^{2,3} OSA is a public health issue that leads to a range of health problems, including hypertension, atrial fibrillation,⁴ type 2 diabetes,⁵ depression, anxiety, and cognitive impairment.^{6,7} In addition, brain alterations have been observed in patients with OSA, especially in brain regions associated with mood and cognitive function, which are

mainly thought to be caused by ischemia-reperfusion injury, oxidative stress, and hypoxemia.^{8–10} However, the exact neural mechanisms underlying cognitive dysfunction, anxiety and depression caused by OSA remain unclear.

The amygdala is a brain region essential for emotion processing and links to emotions such as fear, anxiety, and reward.¹¹ Several previous studies have suggested that atrophy and dysfunction of the amygdala are associated with emotional and cognitive impairment in patients with OSA, which may explain the impairments of emotion and memory in OSA.^{12–14} Moreover, some studies found that the amygdala consists of different subregions that were involved in various emotional processes through distinct different pathways.^{15,16} Resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging (rs-fMRI) was employed by Bickart to divide the amygdala into three subregions: the dorsal amygdala (DA), medial amygdala (MA), and ventral amygdala (VA), which are associated with networks supporting social aversion, social affiliation, and social cognition, respectively.¹⁷ Some studies found that amygdala subregions of depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder patients altered.^{18,19} Previously, we discovered an abnormal functional connectivity (FC) between the amygdala subregions and other brain regions in OSA sufferers, implying that OSA had a selective impact on amygdala subregions which were more sensitive to hypoxia, and that these impairments were connected to both affective and cognitive impairment in those with OSA.²⁰ However, it is not clear whether these abnormalities can be improved after treatment. Therefore, a longitudinal study of changes in the amygdala subregions of patients with OSA is necessary.

Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), a primary and successful treatment for OSA patients, can prevent cerebral tissue hypoxia caused by OSA.²¹ It has been demonstrated in numerous studies to reduce daytime sleepiness symptoms and enhance cardiovascular health and cognitive function.^{22–24} However, one study proposed that certain brain regions associated with cognitive functioning may be less responsive to CPAP.²⁵ But there are no studies about the underlying neural mechanisms in the amygdala subregions in response to CPAP treatment.

The brain structure and function of individuals with OSA have been profoundly illuminated by neuroimaging studies. According to previous studies, a month of CPAP treatment increased degree centrality (DC) values and changed regional homogeneity (ReHo) in some brain regions, such as the frontal and temporal lobes;^{26,27} three months of CPAP treatment increased connectivity of the default mode network (DMN);²⁸ but white matter had no reversible changes after short-term CPAP treatment.²⁹ Reports of the influence of CPAP on brain performance in OSA patients using FC, a technique that shows a statistically significant relationship between the time series of anatomically distinct brain regions and displays demonstrable functional connections among widely separated brain regions,³⁰ have been few. In addition, seed-based FC, the most widespread and fundamental FC approach, has been deemed both sensitive and dependable.³¹ It has been extensively employed in a range of objective assessments of brain functioning, such as in sleep and neuropsychiatric disorders.^{20,32} However, the FC pattern in the amygdala subregions of patients with OSA after CPAP treatment remains unclear.

Therefore, we hypothesized that the FC of the amygdala subregions in patients with OSA might alter after six months of CPAP treatment. We employ a seed-based resting-state FC approach in this study to investigate any changes in FC pattern between each amygdala subregion and other brain regions of OSA caused by CPAP treatment. Then we investigated the correlation between changed FC and clinical factors to investigate the possible neuroimaging processes that could be responsible for the FC alterations caused by CPAP therapy.

Materials and Methods

Patients

All patients were right-handed, native speakers of Chinese, who had not previously received CPAP treatment, recruited from the Sleep Center of the First Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University. The diagnostic criteria were in accordance with the clinical practice guidelines for adult OSA proposed by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) in 2018.³³ Patients with an apnea-hypopnea index (AHI) > 15/h, defined as moderate-to-severe OSA, were included in this study. Exclusion criteria were as follows: (1) misuse of illegal drugs or alcohol, and current use of psychotropic drugs; (2) past cardiovascular, neurological, or psychiatric illnesses and diabetes; (3) other sleep disorders; and (4) contraindications to MRI. Finally, 15 patients with OSA who had complied with CPAP therapy for at least 6 months were included in the analysis. We obey the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of the First Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University, and all participants gave written consent.

Polysomnography

Patients were asked to abstain from hypnotics, alcohol, and coffee the day prior to undergoing overnight polysomnography (PSG). Items recorded on a PSG monitor (Alice 5 LE, Respiromics, Orlando, FL, USA) included body position, thoracic and abdominal breathing movements, snoring, oral and nasal airflow, electroencephalogram, electrooculography, electrocardiography, electrocardiogram, and chin electromyography. The total sleep duration, efficiency, latency, stages, oxygen saturation (SaO₂), awakening, and respiratory events were all documented.³⁴ Obstructive apnea was defined as a decrease of more than 90% in airflow or no airflow for at least 10 seconds. Hypopnea was characterized as a $\geq 30\%$ drop in airflow for ≥ 10 seconds associated with a $\geq 3\%$ drop in the oxygen saturation or an arousal. AHI was determined as the total number of apnea and hypopnea events per hour during sleep.

Neuropsychological Assessment

At baseline (pre-CPAP) and after six months of CPAP follow-up (post-CPAP), all patients with OSA were given the Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS), Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), Hamilton Depression Inventory (HAMD), Hamilton Anxiety Inventory (HAMA), and Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA). The ESS is used to gauge daytime sleepiness, with a range of 0 to 24, with higher scores indicating more intense sleepiness. The PSQI, a measure of subjective sleep quality, is used to evaluate scores ranging from 0 to 21, with higher scores indicating poorer quality. The HAMD and HAMA were then utilized to evaluate the patients' levels of depression and anxiety. Generally, a score of less than 7 is considered normal, 7–17 implies potential depression, 17–24 implies definite depression, and >24 implies extreme depression. HAMA scores greater than 14 indicate significant anxiety symptoms. MoCA's assessment of cognitive functioning yields a total score and seven syndrome scores, including visual space and execution, naming, delayed memory, attentional function, language, abstracting, and orientating. A total MoCA score below 26 is considered to indicate cognitive impairment. All surveys and MRI acquisitions were done on the same day.

CPAP Treatment

All patients were deemed eligible for CPAP treatment with the CPAP standardized auto-adjustment model (YH-480, Yuwell, Jiangsu, China) after the clinician health education intervention. The therapeutic pressure of the ventilator was set to 4–20 cmH₂O, with automatic pressure titration according to the patient's condition. The treatment duration was six months, with a frequency of at least 4 h per night and at least 5 days per week. The integrated circuit card of the ventilator, which logged machine usage time automatically, thereby affirming compliance.

MRI Data Acquisition

Using a 3.0 Tesla magnetic resonance scanner (Siemens, Munich, Germany) with an 8-channel phased-array head coil, two acquisitions of MRI data were conducted the day after the PSG test and within 1 week of the completion of six months of CPAP treatment. Subjects were asked to lie on the scan bed with their eyes closed, and to remain awake, tranquil, and relaxed while not thinking about anything during the scans. To reduce the MRI scanner's noise, soft earplugs were employed, while a pad was utilized to stabilize the head and reduce movement. Routine MRI data were collected from the brain: axis T2WI [pulse repetition time (TR) = 3000 ms, echo time (TE) = 122 ms, field of view (FOV) = 240 mm \times 240 mm, matrix = 256 \times 256, layer thickness = 5 mm] and axial T1WI (TR = 600 ms, TE = 10 ms, FOV = 240 mm \times 240 mm, matrix = 256 \times 256, layer thickness = 5 mm). An echo-planar imaging (EPI) sequence was utilized to acquire resting-state blood oxygen level-dependent data of the entire brain (TR = 2000 ms, TE = 30 ms, FOV = 230 mm \times 230 mm, matrix = 64 \times 64, layer thickness = 4.0 mm), for the purpose of obtaining rs-fMRI data.

Image Processing and Analysis

Image preprocessing and data analysis performed by DPABI (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China, <http://rfmri.org/dpabi>), which was based on SPM 12 (<http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/software/spm12/>) and running on MATLAB 2018b (MathWorks, Natick, MA, USA). The following steps were taken: (1) transforming the image data from DICOM to NIFTI format; (2) eliminating the initial 10 time points; (3) slice timing correction; (4) the data of the remaining 230

time points were corrected for 3D head movements, and the maximum displacement (x, y, z) > 2.0 mm, maximum rotation $> 2.0^\circ$ or frame displacement of any of the 230 volumes exceeding 2.0 standard deviations were excluded; (5) aligning the functional images of each subject with the EPI template. (6) normalizing the image space to the Montreal Neuroscience Institute (MNI) template, resampling it to $3 \times 3 \times 3$ mm³ voxel size, and then smoothing it with a 6-mm full width at half-maxima (FWHM) Gaussian smoothing kernel, the data were filtered using a bandwidth of 0.01~0.08 Hz; (7) linear regression was then employed to regress 24 head movement parameters and white matter and cerebrospinal fluid signals.

Bickart's research determined six subregions of the bilateral amygdala to be regions of interest (ROI), each with a radius of 3 mm: DA (MNI coordinates $\pm 22, -4, -12$), MA ($\pm 14, -4, -20$), and VA ($\pm 28, -4, -22$)¹⁷ (Figure 1). The Pearson correlation coefficients between each ROI and the other voxels in the entire brain were determined by extracting their mean time series, thus forming a brain-wide Pearson correlation coefficient pattern map with each amygdala subregion as the seed, otherwise known as a FC pattern map. To make the results more consistent with a standard normal distribution, Fisher's r -to- z transformation was then applied.

Statistical Analysis

The Kolmogorov–Smirnov test was applied to demographic and clinical data to ascertain if the data followed a normal distribution. Paired t -test and paired-on-sample rank-sum test were applied for data with normal and abnormal distribution, respectively. The $p < 0.05$ were considered statistically significant. A single-sample t -test was initially employed to evaluate the spatial distribution of FC in each amygdala subregion and the entire brain prior to and following CPAP. Subsequently, a paired t -test was conducted with head movement as the covariate, based on the amygdala subregions as the seed point, using DPABI software to analyze FC disparities between the pre-CPAP and post-CPAP. A Gaussian random field theory (GRF) two-tailed correction was used to consider statistical differences at the voxel level with $p < 0.01$ and at the cluster level with $p < 0.05$. Pearson's and Spearman correlation analyses were then conducted to explore the correlation between FC discrepancy and clinical and neuropsychological variables at pre-CPAP and post-CPAP, with data having a normal and non-normal distribution, respectively.

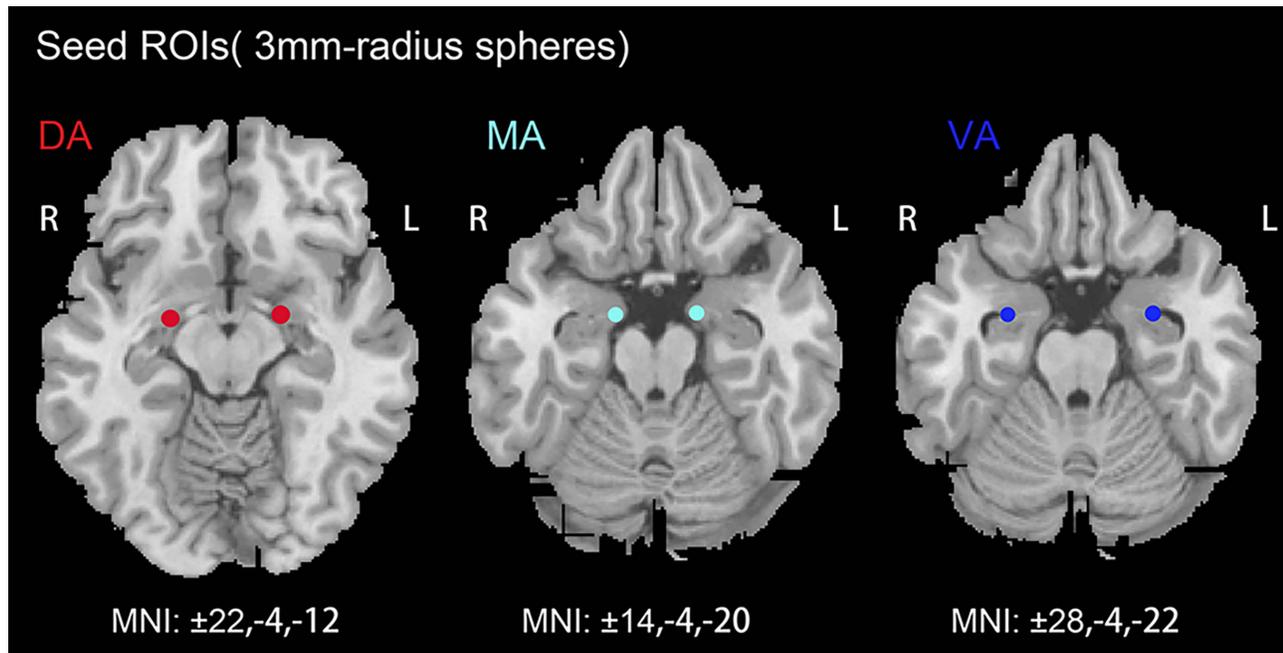


Figure 1 The amygdala subregions.

Abbreviations: ROI, region of interest; DA, dorsal amygdala; MA, medial amygdala; VA, ventral amygdala; MNI, Montreal Neuroscience Institute; R, right; L, left.

Results

Demographic and Clinical Assessment Results

Table 1 displays the demographic and clinical characteristics of patients with OSA before and after CPAP. Compared to pre-CPAP OSA, we observed a statistically significant difference in ESS, HAMA, HAMD, MoCA, and delayed recall of MoCA scale scores post-CPAP ($p < 0.05$). However, no significant differences were found in body mass index (BMI) or PSQI scores.

Functional Connectivity Differences

Before and after CPAP treatment, the FC patterns of the various functional amygdala subregions in OSA patients were similar (Figure 2). In comparison to pre-CPAP, the FC between the left DA and the right posterior cingulate cortex (PCC) was notably augmented, whereas the FC between the left MA and the right postcentral gyrus (PoCG) and the FC between the right MA and the left middle frontal gyrus (MFG) were diminished in post-CPAP OSA patients (Table 2 and Figure 3). No statistically noteworthy disparity in bilateral VA was observed between pre- and post-CPAP patients with OSA.

Correlation Analysis

A positive correlation ($r = 0.558$, $p = 0.031$) between FC values of the left DA-right PCC in pre-CPAP OSA and HAMA was observed (Figure 4). However, no significant relationship between altered FC and ESS, HAMA, HAMD, MoCA, or delayed recall was found in patients with OSA after CPAP.

Table 1 Characteristics of Participant Demographics and Clinical Assessment Information

Characteristics	Pre-CPAP OSA (N=15)	Post-CPAP OSA (N=15)	t-value/ z-value	p-value
Gender (Male/Female)	14/1	14/1	/	/
Age, years	41.5±7.4	/	/	/
BMI, Kg/m ²	27.6 (24.4,29.7)	26.0 (24.1,29.9)	-0.534	0.594
ESS, scores	10.0±5.5	6.4±2.8	-2.460	0.027*
MoCA, scores	25.0 (20.0,26.0)	26.0 (22.0,28.0)	-2.463	0.014*
Visual space and execution	4.1±1.0	4.5±0.8	0.939	0.364
Naming	3.0 (3.0,3.0)	3.0 (3.0,3.0)	-1.000	0.317
Delayed memory	2.0 (1.0,3.0)	3.0 (2.0,3.0)	-2.521	0.012*
Attentional function	6.0 (5.0,6.0)	6.0 (5.0,6.0)	-0.378	0.705
Language	3.0 (2.0,3.0)	2.0 (2.0,3.0)	-0.302	0.763
Abstract	2.0 (1.0,2.0)	2.0 (1.0,2.0)	-1.000	0.317
Orienting	6.0 (6.0,6.0)	6.0 (6.0,6.0)	-0.816	0.414
HAMA, scores	7.0 (5.0,8.0)	3.0 (1.0,4.0)	-3.106	0.002*
HAMD, scores	4.0 (3.0,7.0)	3.0 (1.0,4.0)	-2.200	0.028*
PSQI, scores	5.0 (5.0,8.0)	5.0 (4.0,6.0)	-1.476	0.169
AHI, /h	47.7±18.3	/	/	/
Nadir SaO ₂ , %	71.5±10.6	/	/	/
Mean SaO ₂ , %	94.3±2.5	/	/	/
SaO ₂ <90%	12.9±10.9	/	/	/
Sleep efficiency, %	81.3±8.7	/	/	/
Mean CPAP use, h/night	/	6.4±0.6	/	/
Days of CPAP use>4h, %	/	86.0±8.0	/	/
Mean CPAP pressure, cm H ₂ O	/	8.2±1.4	/	/

Note: *Significant group difference $p < 0.05$.

Abbreviations: pre-CPAP OSA, OSA patients at baseline; post-CPAP OSA, OSA patients after CPAP treatment; BMI, body mass index; ESS, Epworth sleepiness scale; MoCA, Montreal cognitive assessment; HAMA, Hamilton anxiety scale; HAMD, Hamilton depression scale; PSQI, Pittsburgh sleep quality index; AHI, apnea hypopnea index; SaO₂, oxygen saturation; SaO₂ < 90%, percentage of total sleep time spent at oxygen saturation < 90%.

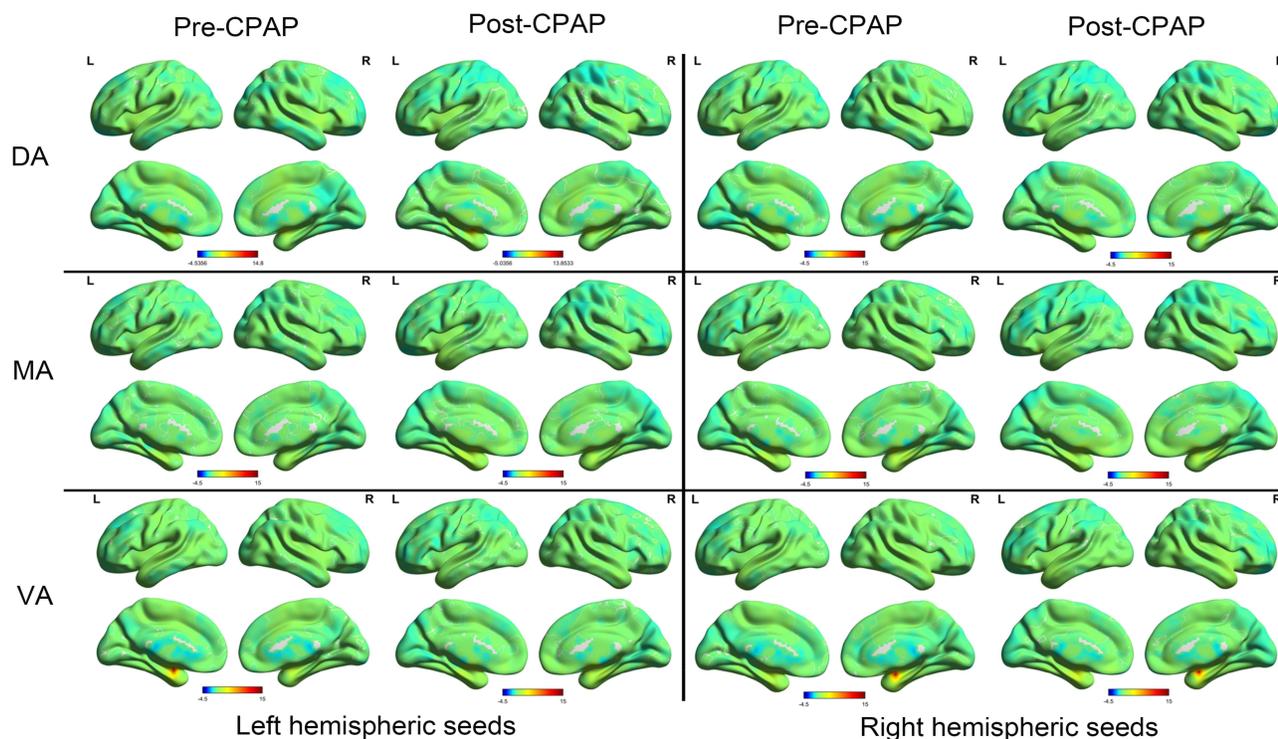


Figure 2 The functional connectivity patterns of OSA patients at baseline and after six months CPAP treatment (single sample *t*-test).

Abbreviations: pre-CPAP, OSA patients at baseline; post-CPAP, OSA patients after CPAP treatment; DA, dorsal amygdala; MA, medial amygdala; VA, ventral amygdala; FC, functional connectivity; L, left; R, right.

Discussion

To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first to investigate the impact of CPAP treatment on the FC between amygdala subregions and the entire brain in OSA patients. After six months of CPAP, the FC of the left DA with the right PCC was increased, which was correlated with the HAMA in pre-CPAP OSA, while the FC of the left MA with the right PoCG and the right MA with the left MFG were both decreased compared to the baseline. In addition, anxiety, depressive mood, daytime sleepiness, cognitive function, and delayed recall improved after CPAP. These results suggest that CPAP treatment can partially reverse brain damage in patients with OSA and provide important clues to the debate regarding the pathogenesis of emotional and cognitive impairment and its reversibility in OSA.

After six months of CPAP treatment, a marked improvement in FC between the left DA and the right PCC was observed in this study. The DA plays functionally specific role in the control of behavior and processes olfactory, emotional, and socially relevant information.^{35,36} Moreover, the PCC, a central node of the DMN, has been found to have a significant impact on spatial orientation and memory function,^{37,38} and is strongly connected to other cognitively relevant structures, such as parahippocampus.³⁹ Previous studies have also revealed that OSA patients have an altered

Table 2 Brain Areas Showing Functional Connectivity Disparities with Amygdala Subregions Between Pre-CPAP OSA and Post-CPAP OSA

Seed-ROIs	Brain Areas	MNI Coordinates			Num. of Voxels	t-values
		x	y	z		
Left DA	Right posterior cingulate cortex	6	-42	24	171	4.416
Left MA	Right postcentral gyrus	24	-36	66	213	-6.394
Right MA	Left middle frontal gyrus	-39	-3	42	212	-5.805

Notes: Gaussian random field theory (GRF) two-tail corrected with voxel level $p < 0.01$ and cluster level $p < 0.05$.

Abbreviations: ROI, region of interest; DA, dorsal amygdala; MA, medial amygdala; MNI, Montreal Neuroscience Institute.

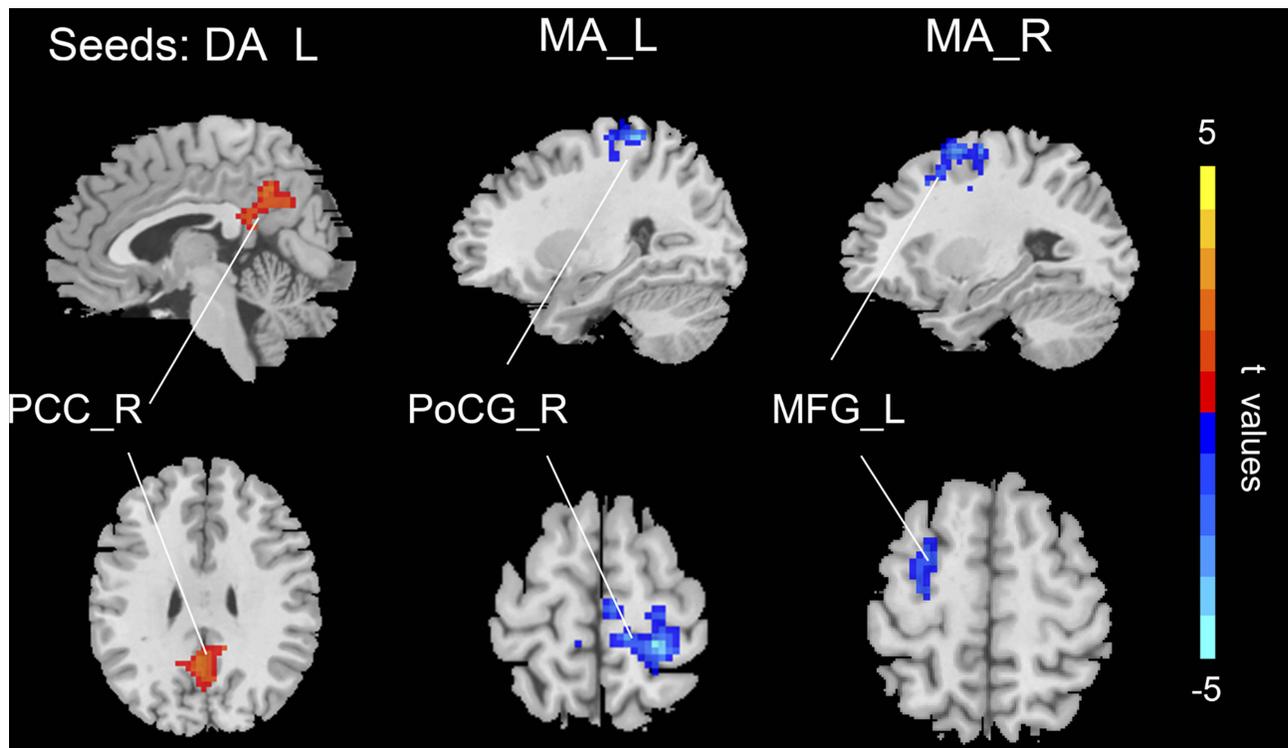


Figure 3 The altered FC in the amygdala subregions of OSA, the increased FC in post-CPAP compared to pre-CPAP OSA (warm color), the decreased FC in post-CPAP compared to pre-CPAP OSA (cold color); Gaussian random field theory (GRF) two-tail corrected with voxel level $p < 0.01$ and cluster level $p < 0.05$.

Abbreviations: DA_L, left dorsal amygdala; MA_L, left medial amygdala; MA_R, right medial amygdala; PCC_R, right posterior cingulate cortex; PoCG_R, right postcentral gyrus; MFG_L, left middle frontal gyrus.

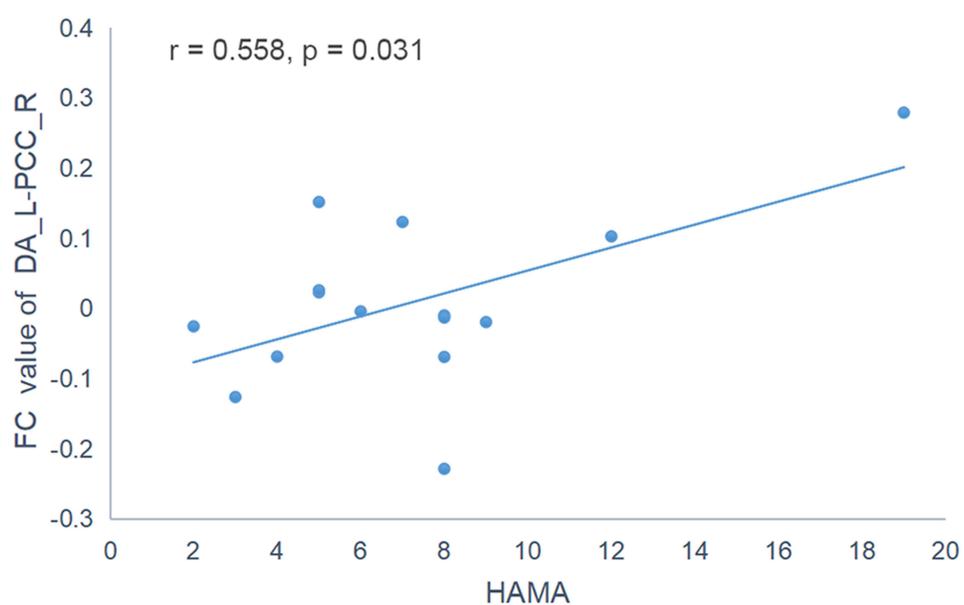


Figure 4 Correlation analyses between altered FC and HAMA in pre-CPAP patients with OSA.

Abbreviations: FC, functional connectivity; DA_L, left dorsal amygdala; PCC_R, right posterior cingulate cortex; HAMA, Hamilton anxiety scale.

volume and metabolism of the PCC^{40,41} and that FC between it and various brain regions related to cognitive function has been altered, suggesting that PCC dysfunction is an important neuropathophysiological mechanism of neurocognitive impairment.^{42,43} In addition, a previous study found that the functional connectivity in the DMN is associated with hypoxemia.⁴⁴ Our results, in agreement with prior studies that demonstrate CPAP treatment boosts DMN connectivity²⁸ and further demonstrate that CPAP treatment is seen to contribute to the functional integration of the amygdala and DMN. This enhanced FC could be attributed to CPAP to enhance glucose uptake in the DMN,⁴⁵ a key factor in emotional processing and cognitive function. We also found that the FC values between the left DA and right PCC in patients with OSA at baseline were positively correlated with HAMA, which could explain in part the emotional dysfunction caused by impaired PCC.

A diminished FC between the left MA and right PoCG was discovered. MA plays a crucial role in social behavioral responses, contains both sensory and behavioral properties.⁴⁶ PoCG, as a somatosensory center, belongs to the sensorimotor network (SMN). SMN's dysfunction is associated with sleep disorders⁴⁷ and OSA severity, which may lead to reduced information-processing speed and executive dysfunction.⁴⁵ However, patients with OSA exhibit inconsistent alterations in the SMN. Studies have revealed that ReHo,⁴⁸ FC,¹³ and regional cerebral blood flow⁴⁹ are diminished in the precentral and postcentral gyrus, which may be due to a change in sensory input and motor output in the upper airway, resulting in a decrease of lingual muscle tissue tone and airway collapse.^{13,50} A previous study showed regional ReHo activities increased in the bilateral PoCG in OSA patients before treatment and short-term CPAP treatment reduced ReHo signals in the PoCG, which was further correlated with improved sleep quality.⁵¹ Our earlier research revealed an augmented FC in the precentral gyrus and PoCG,^{31,52} which could be a compensatory mechanism for the previously mentioned decreased function. Thus, our findings suggest that CPAP treatment can effectively reverse the compensatory responses induced by OSA.

In addition, Post-CPAP patients with OSA showed a decrease in FC between the right MA and the left MFG, which was part of the Frontoparietal Control Network (FPN) and was linked to executive function and cognitive control, as well as working memory.^{53,54} Studies have indicated a decrease in ReHo and fractional amplitude of low-frequency fluctuations in the left MFG, implying that nocturnal intermittent hypoxemia may impair FPN function, resulting in cognitive dysfunction.^{48,55} Moreover, some studies have revealed an increase in DC values of the MFG in patients with OSA treated with CPAP for one month²⁶ and an augmentation in connectivity of the MFG after three months of CPAP treatment,²⁸ suggesting that CPAP treatment can restore brain damage caused by OSA. Our previous studies have found enhanced FC between the amygdala, hippocampus, insula, and FPN, reflecting a potential compensatory mechanism of FPN function.^{20,31,52} Consequently, the FC between the right MA and left MFG may be indicative of a withdrawal of adaptive compensatory mechanisms. CPAP has been shown to enhance brain plasticity and promote metabolic alterations in the frontal and connecting brain regions,⁵⁶ suggesting that frontal plasticity may explain the FC alterations in this study.

Our prior research demonstrated a noteworthy decrease in FC between the right DA and the right prefrontal cortex,²⁰ yet this investigation revealed no noteworthy enhancement in the prefrontal cortex - in agreement with some prior studies.^{57,58} Two explanations may be given for this: the inability of six months CPAP treatment to completely restore brain function and clinical changes in those with OSA, and the potential for hypoxic damage in OSA to cause neuronal loss, which, unlike neuronal dysfunction, cannot be reversed by CPAP.⁵⁹ Further studies are required to assess the impact of complete adherence to long-term CPAP treatment.

Limitations

This study has several limitations. The sample size being limited to 15 subjects, mainly men, necessitates further validation of the results. Furthermore, due to the absence of a placebo-treated group, we were unable to compare and observe if those with OSA treated with placebo would display alterations in brain function akin to those observed in our study. Finally, the PSG's lack in patients' post-treatment and the inaccuracy of AHI data from the ventilator's integrated circuit card necessitate a deeper investigation into the impact of treatment and its connection to the restoration of sleep architecture.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we found that abnormal FC between amygdala subregions and other brain regions after CPAP treatment can be partly reversed in patients with OSA, which are important for emotional function. These findings provide a new imaging perspective to further understand the underlying neural mechanisms of CPAP treatment response, thus suggesting a new direction for exploring CPAP treatment assessment in patients with OSA.

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Disclosure

The authors declare that the study was conducted without any commercial or financial ties that could be seen as a possible conflict of interest.

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