

Objective Measures of Dystonia Motor Symptoms



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Quantifying motor symptom severity from videorecordings

Overarching Goal:

Objectively measure severity of motor symptoms in isolated dystonia

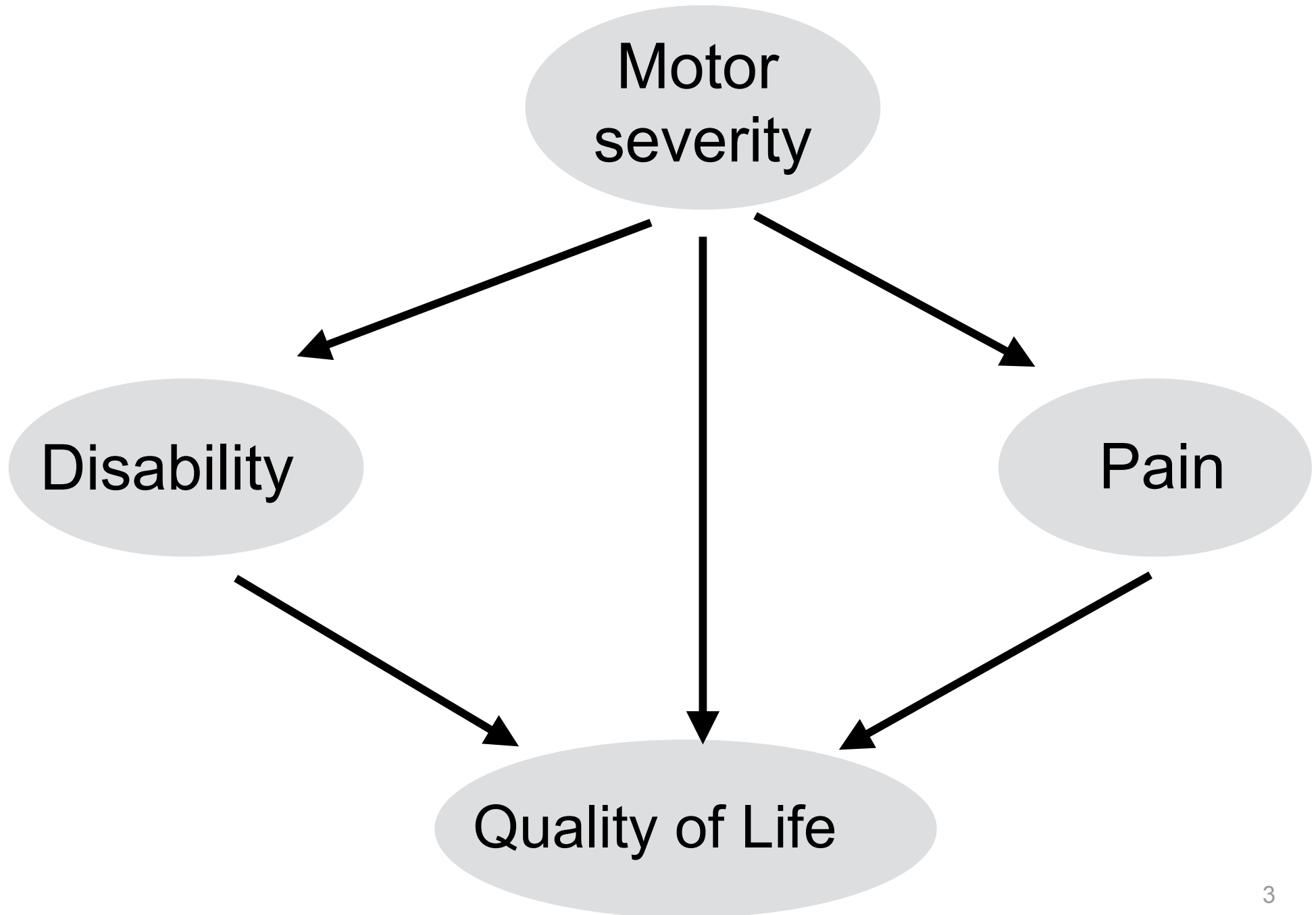
Scope:

- blepharospasm (BSP)
- cervical dystonia (CD)
- laryngeal dystonia (LD)

Overall Approach:

- Develop software that recognizes motor abnormalities using video recordings (“CMOR”, the Computational Motor Objective Rater)
- Test CMOR’s convergent validity with clinical ratings of severity

Why a focus on motor symptoms?

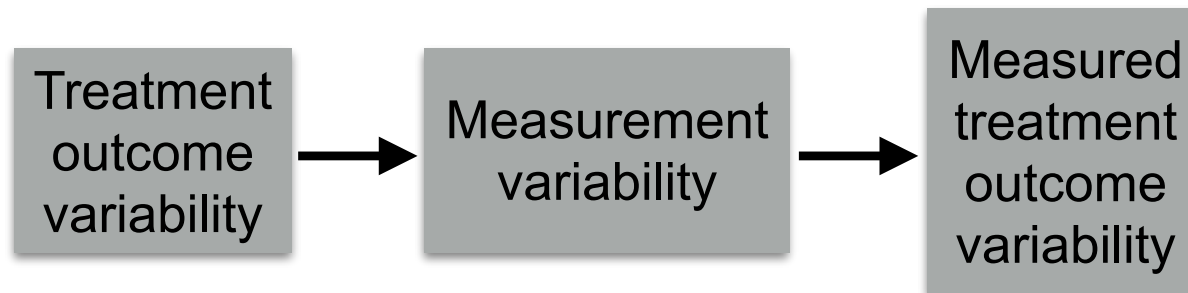


Why is it important to measure severity?

- epidemiological data
- research into mechanisms
(imaging, neurophysiology, histopathology, genetics)
- Natural history (progression, spread)
- **Clinical trials:** pre-/post-treatment
(new oral meds?, DBS, BoNT, rTMS, etc.)

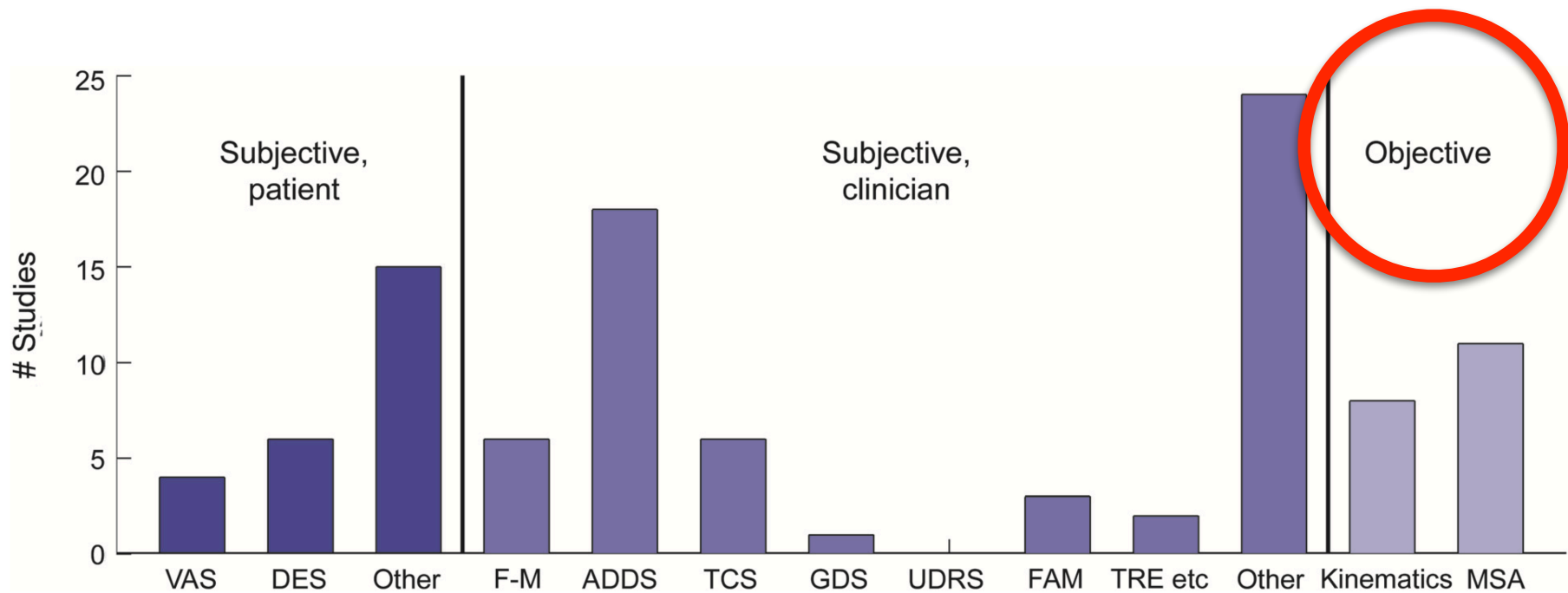
How is severity currently measured?: clinical rating scales (CRS)

- Most clinical rating scales:
 - map descriptions to numbers:
(none = 0, mild = 1, moderate = 2, severe = 3, etc.)
- are based on human judgement, i.e. **subjective**
 - Some trials exhibit improvements in **objective** measures but not with CRSs (Ralf Reilmann, MDS 2018)
- Concerns about intra- and inter-rater reliability
 - The issue isn't *accuracy* per se, but consistency (subjective isn't wrong, just highly **variable**)



Distribution of subjective and objective severity measure use: an example

(review of 73 publications on musician's FHD that quantified motor symptoms)



Why video ?

(vs. kinematics, EMG, etc.)

- Clinical utility
 - Minimal additional resource requirements
 - equipment
 - expertise
 - time
 - Pervasive in movement disorders
- Less physically obtrusive
(vs. markers, EMG electrodes, etc.)
 - minimize observer effect!
- Obvious extension to mobile platforms

BSP: eye closure

Objective, computerized video-based rating of blepharospasm severity

Neurology 2016

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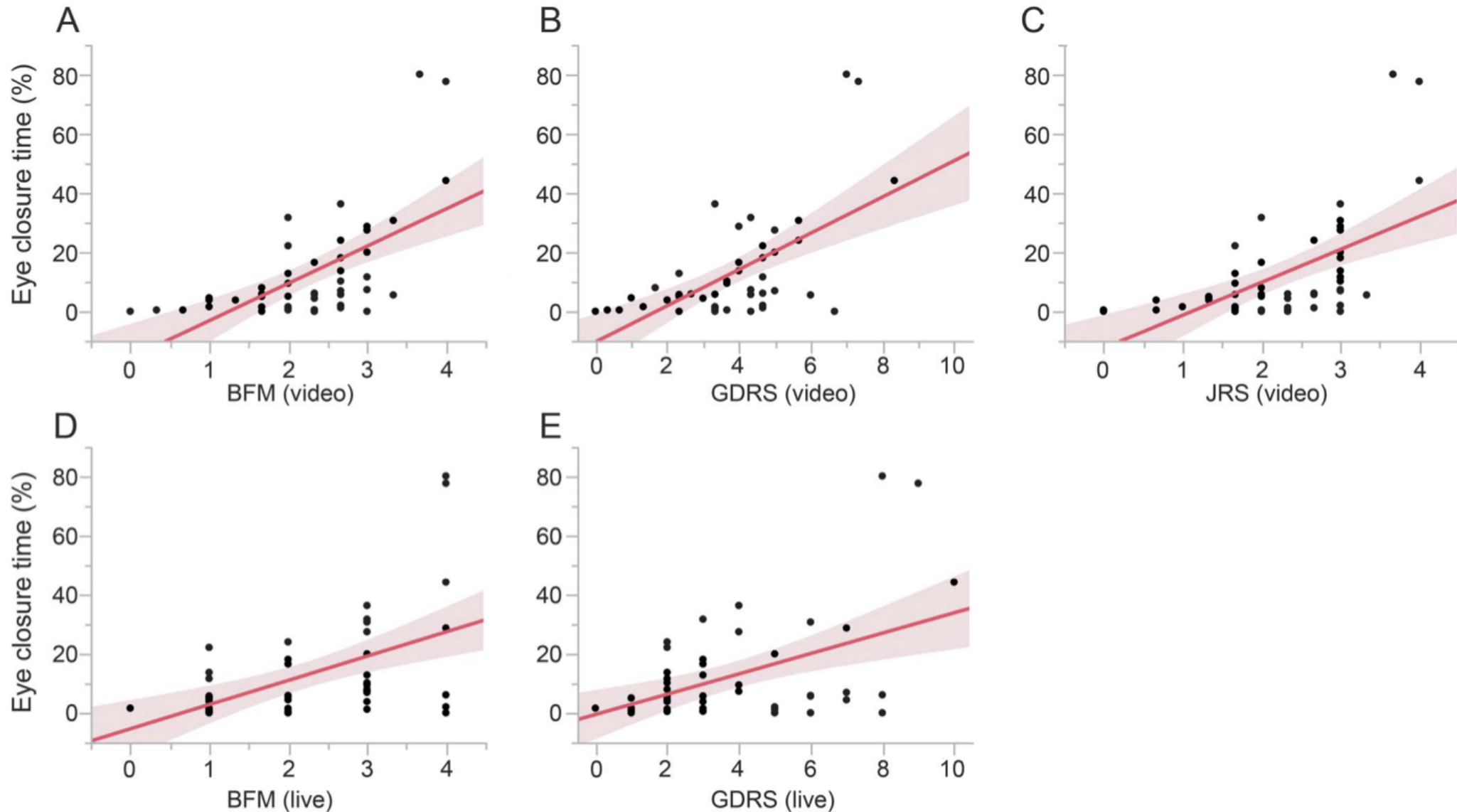
ABSTRACT

Objective: To compare clinical rating scales of blepharospasm severity with involuntary eye closures measured automatically from patient videos with contemporary facial expression software.

Methods: We evaluated video recordings of a standardized clinical examination from 50 patients with blepharospasm in the Dystonia Coalition's Natural History and Biorepository study. Eye closures were measured on a frame-by-frame basis with software known as the Computer Expression Recognition Toolbox (CERT). The proportion of eye closure time was compared with 3 commonly used clinical rating scales: the Burke-Fahn-Marsden Dystonia Rating Scale, Global Dystonia Rating Scale, and Jankovic Rating Scale.

Results: CERT was reliably able to find the face, and its eye closure measure was correlated with all of the clinical severity ratings (Spearman $\rho = 0.56, 0.52$, and 0.56 for the Burke-Fahn-Marsden Dystonia Rating Scale, Global Dystonia Rating Scale, and Jankovic Rating Scale, respectively, all $p < 0.0001$).

Convergent validity with clinical ratings (BFM, GDRS, JRS)



BSP: beyond eye closure

(with Brian Berman and Mark Hallett)

- Blinks
- Spasms (of various duration)
- Apraxia of eyelid opening

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A neural network-based software to recognise blepharospasm symptoms and to measure eye closure time

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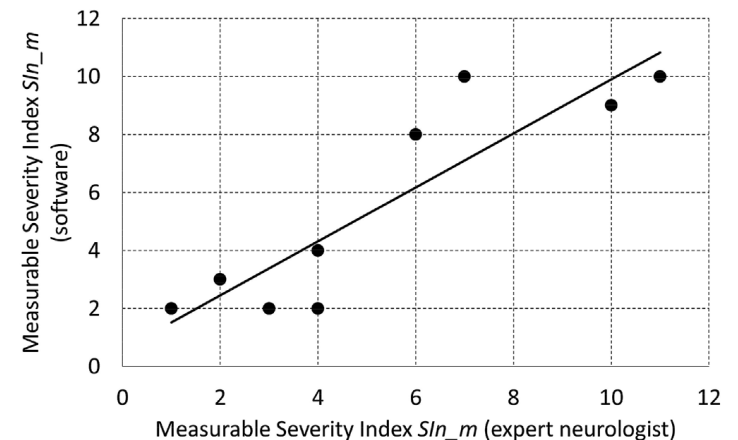
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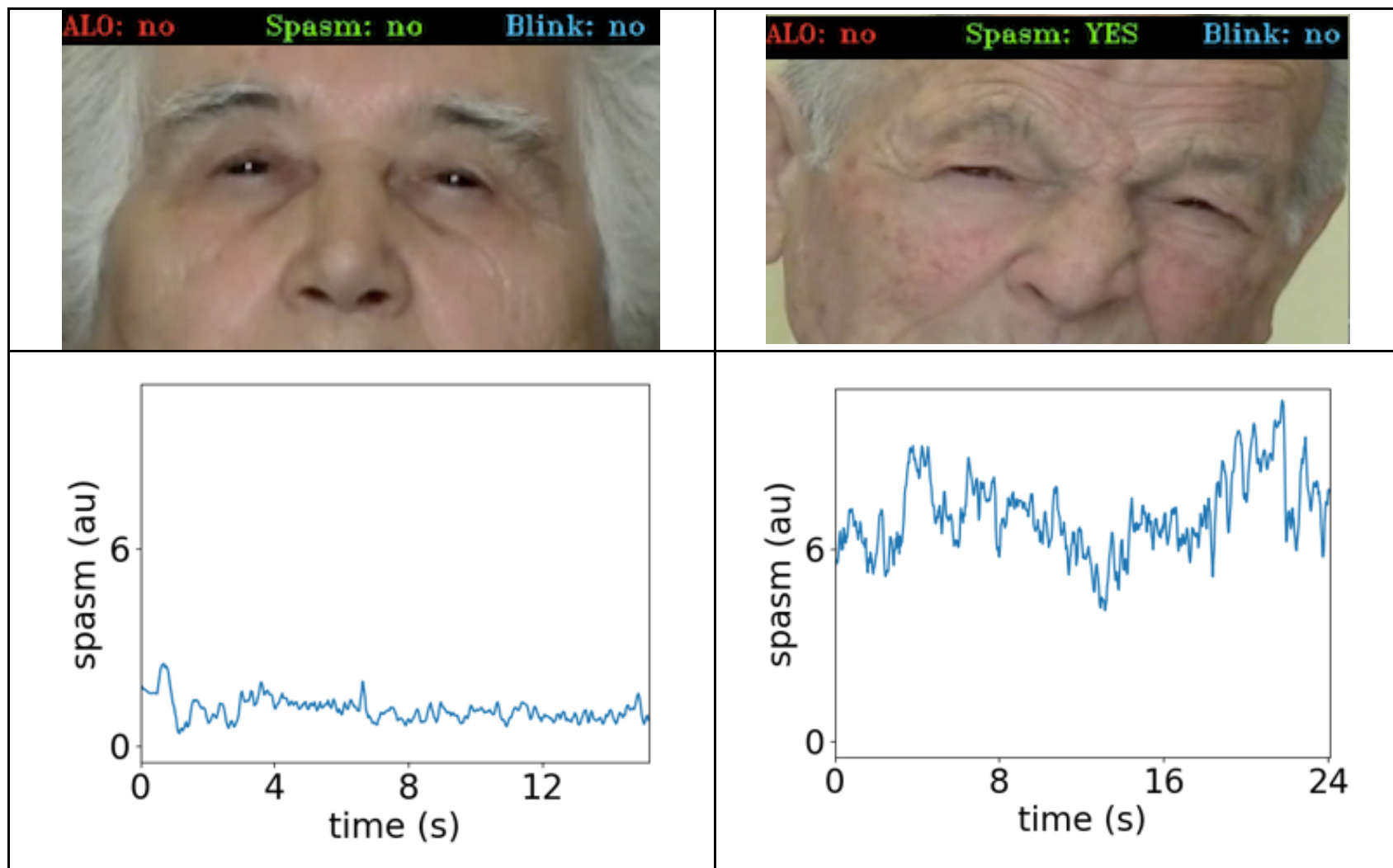
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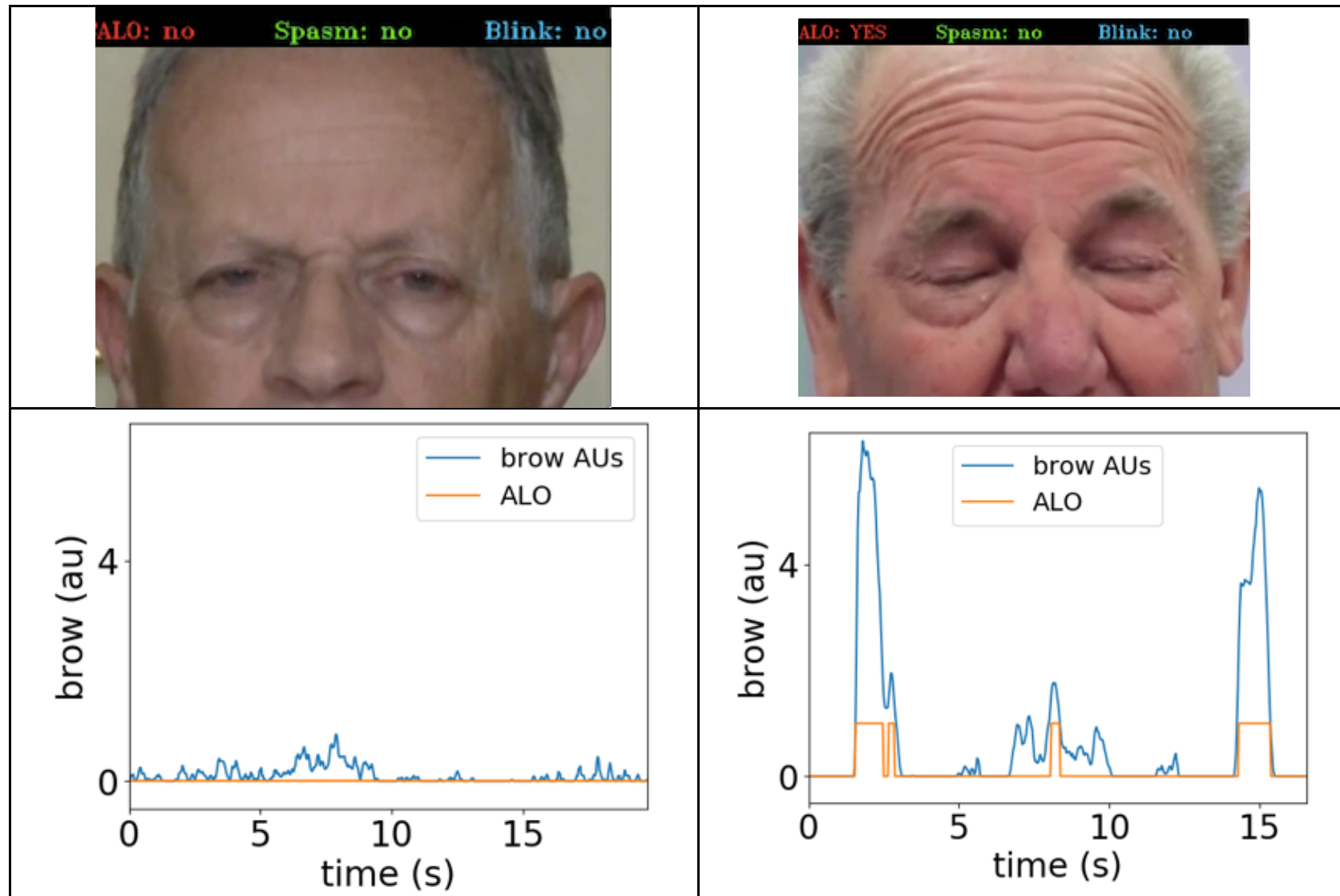
(N = 9)



BSP: spasms

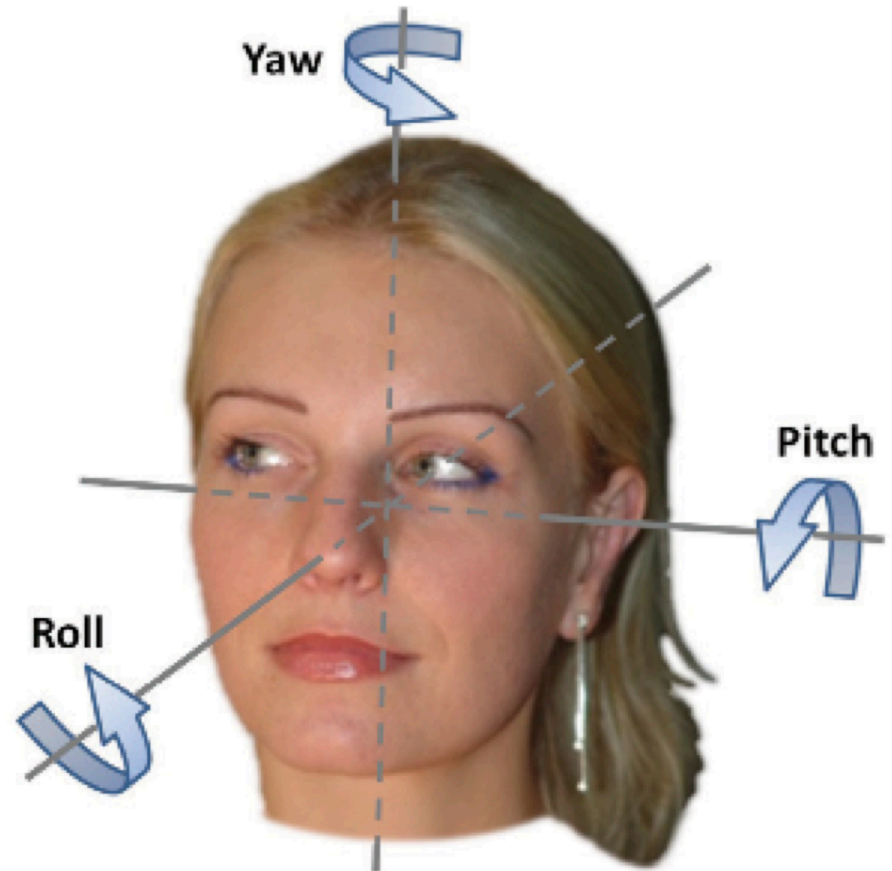
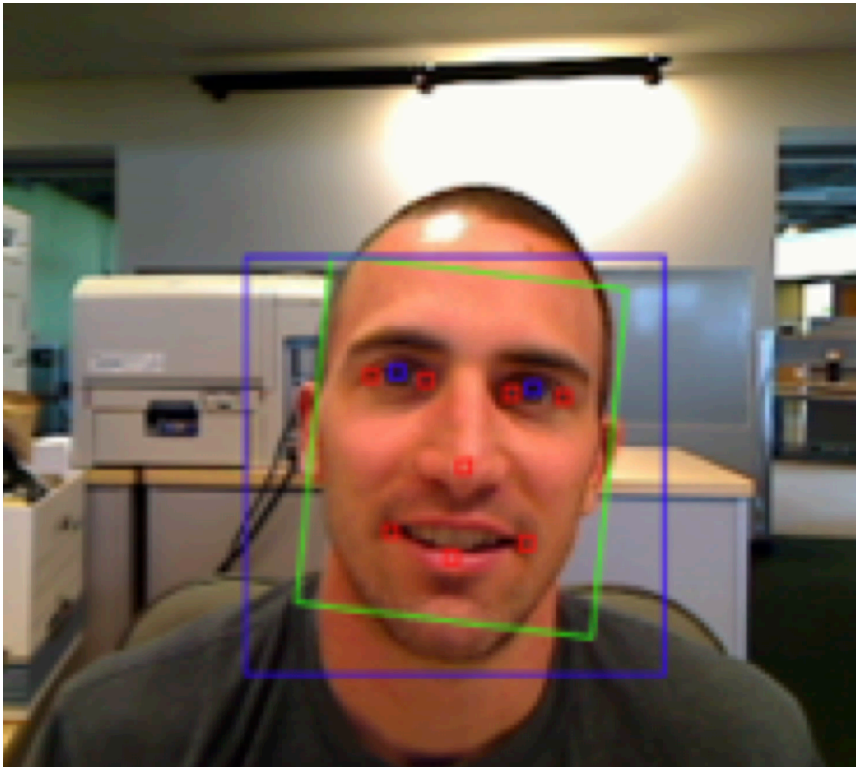


BSP: apraxia of lid opening



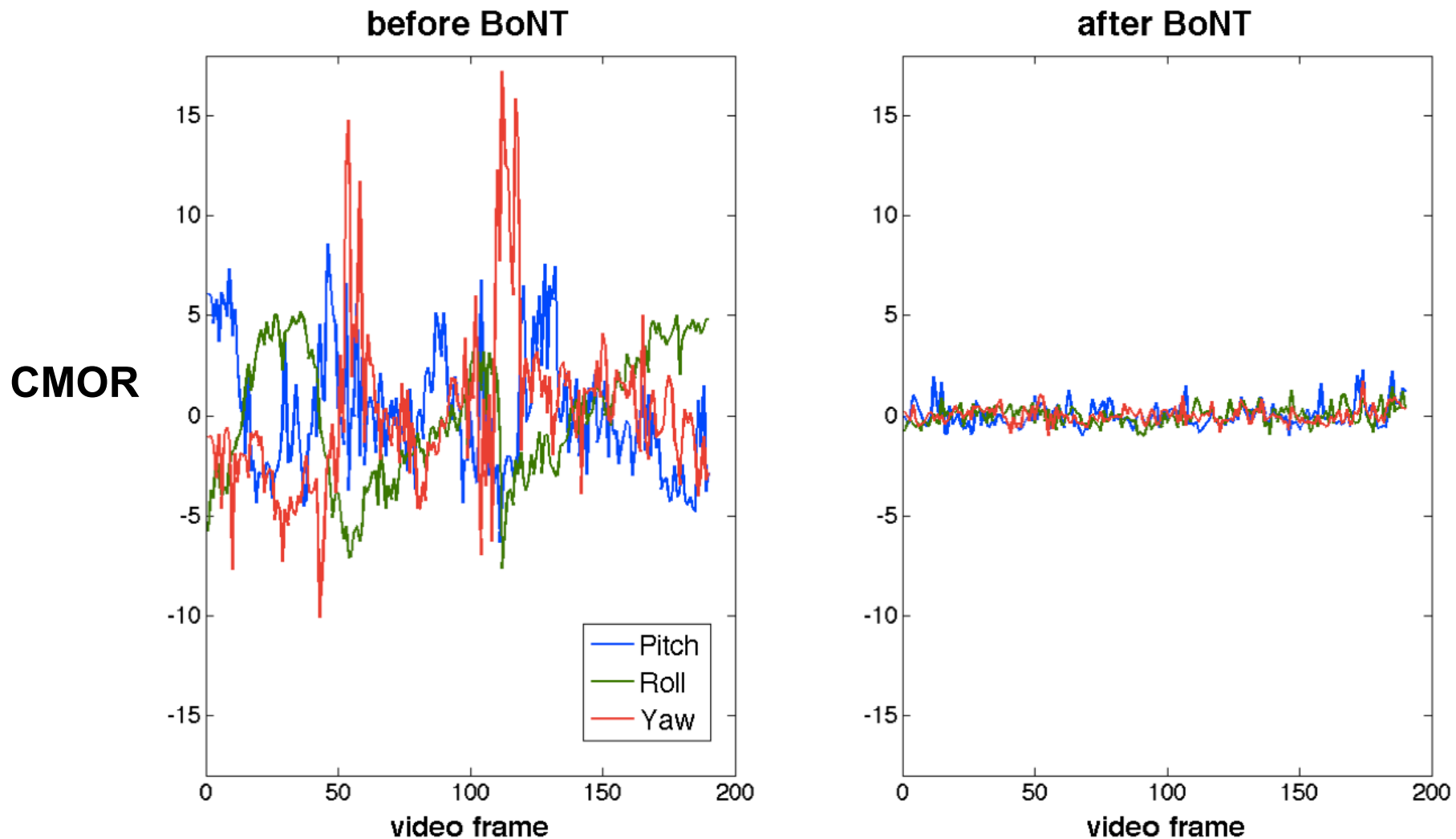
CD: capturing head posture

(with Cindy Comella and Glenn Stebbins)



anterocollis / retrocollis	pitch
laterocollis	roll
horizontal rotation	yaw

CD: BoNT treatment sensitivity

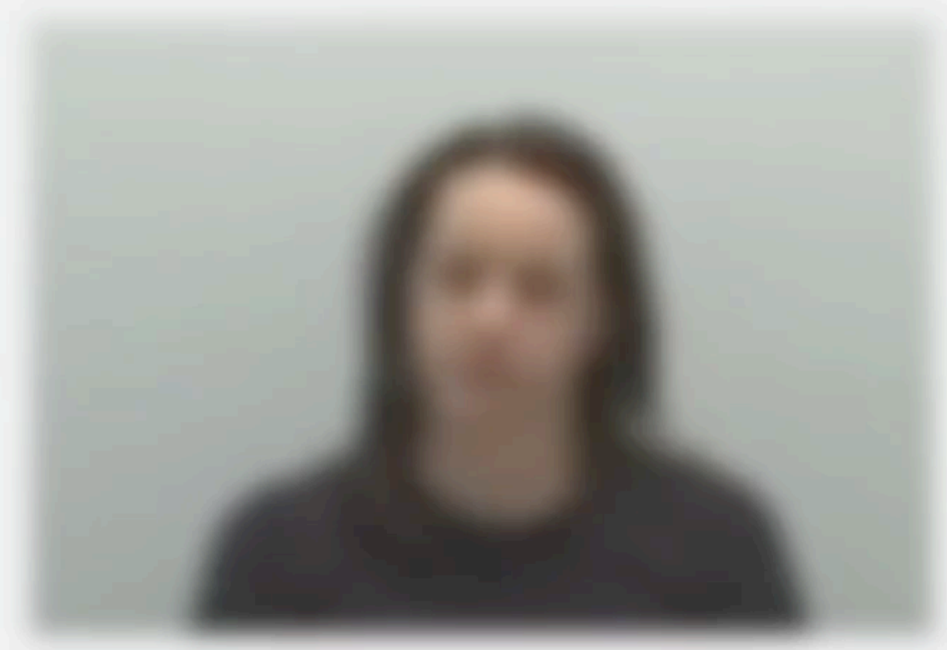
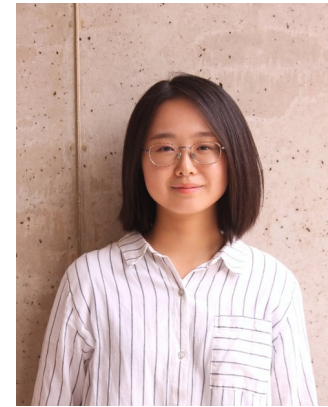


Head pose dynamics before (left), and four weeks after (right), BoNT (angle, zero-measured).

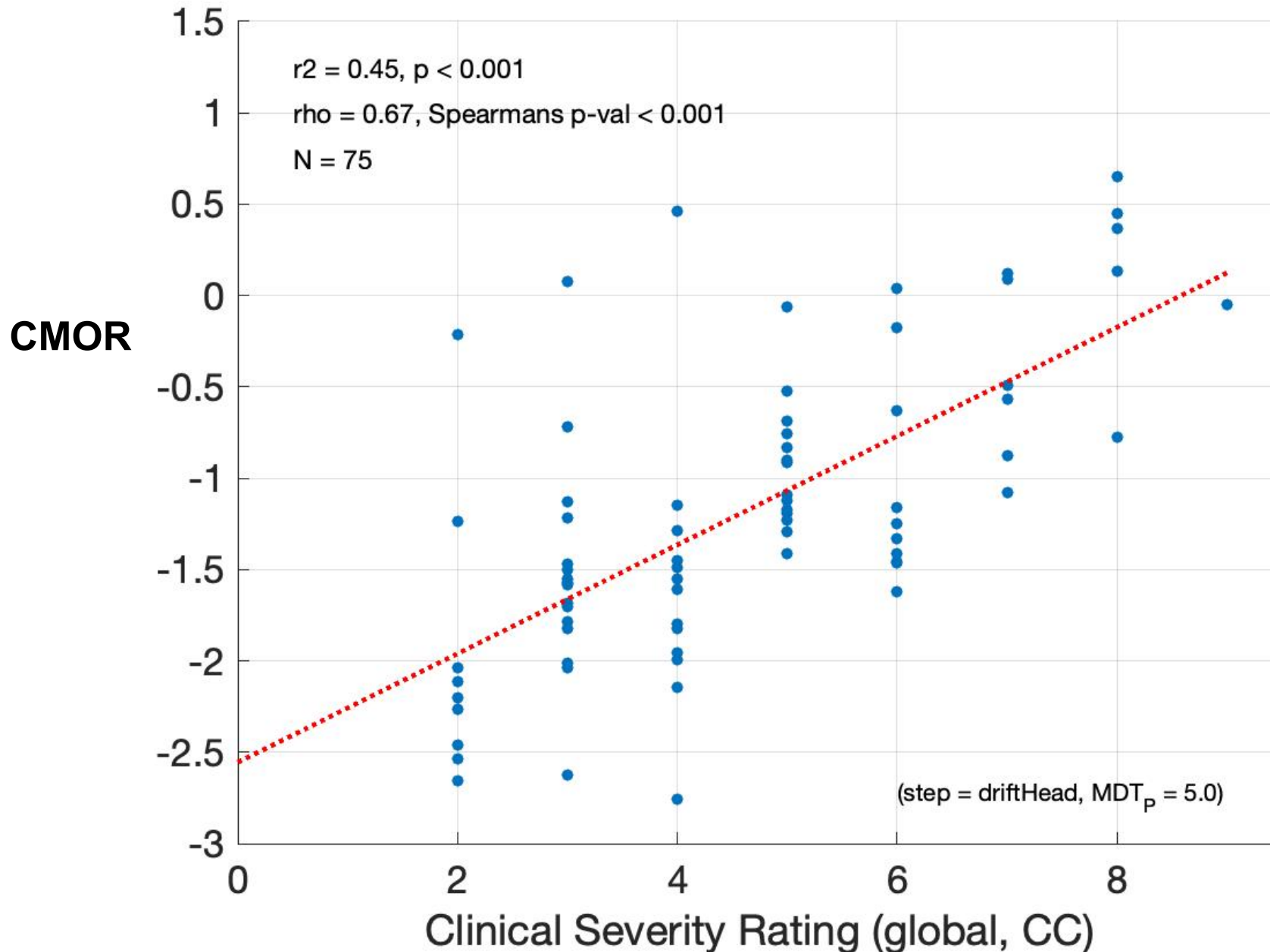
[Patient Anonymous 2, frames 300:489 and 1876:2065]

Head tremor in CD

(Qiyu Chen, Jeanne Vu)



CD: Capturing head tremor severity

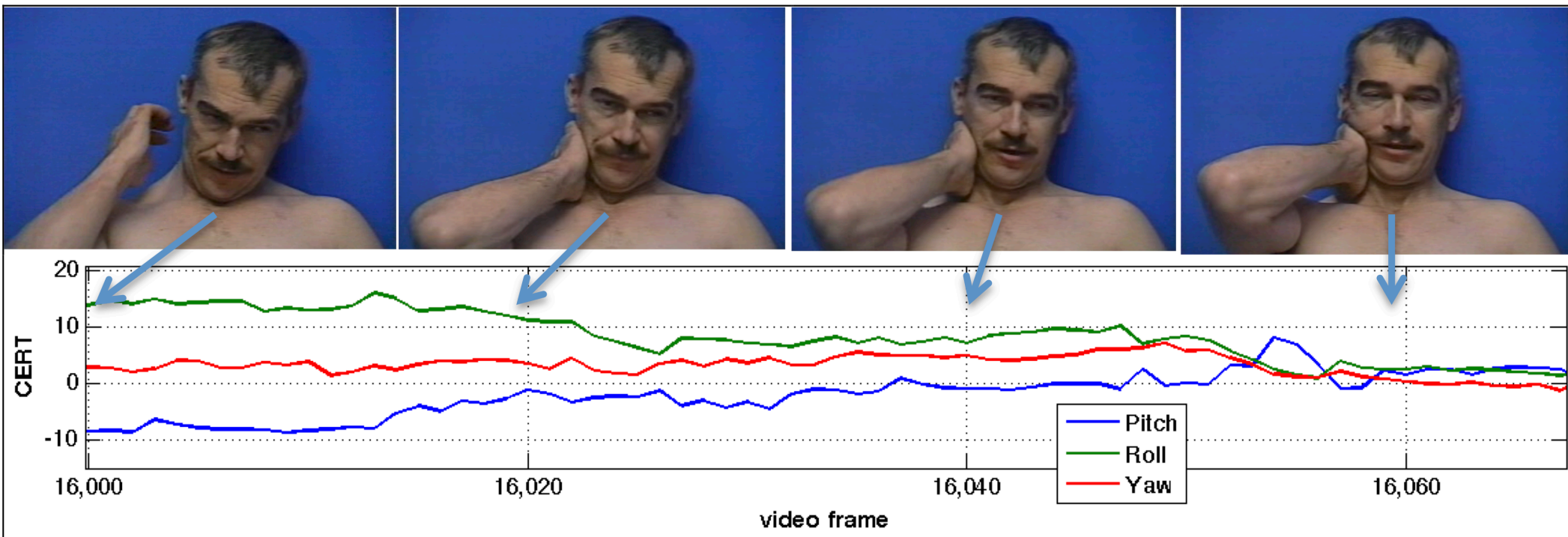


The “sensory trick” in CD

(Elizabeth Cisneros)

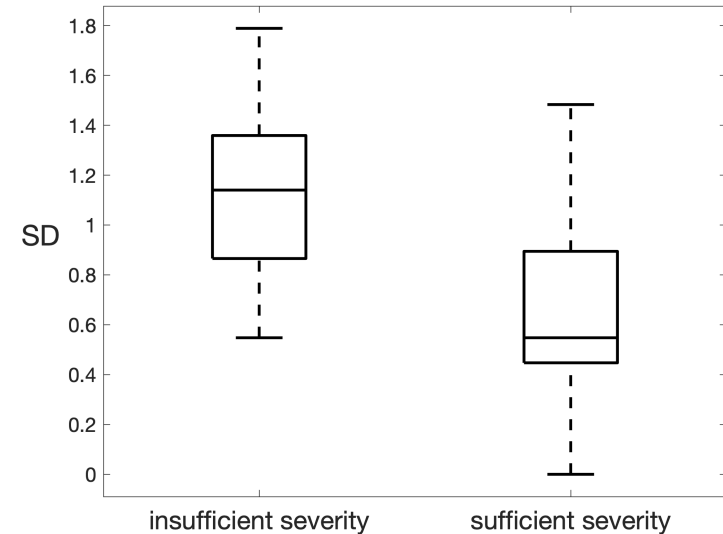
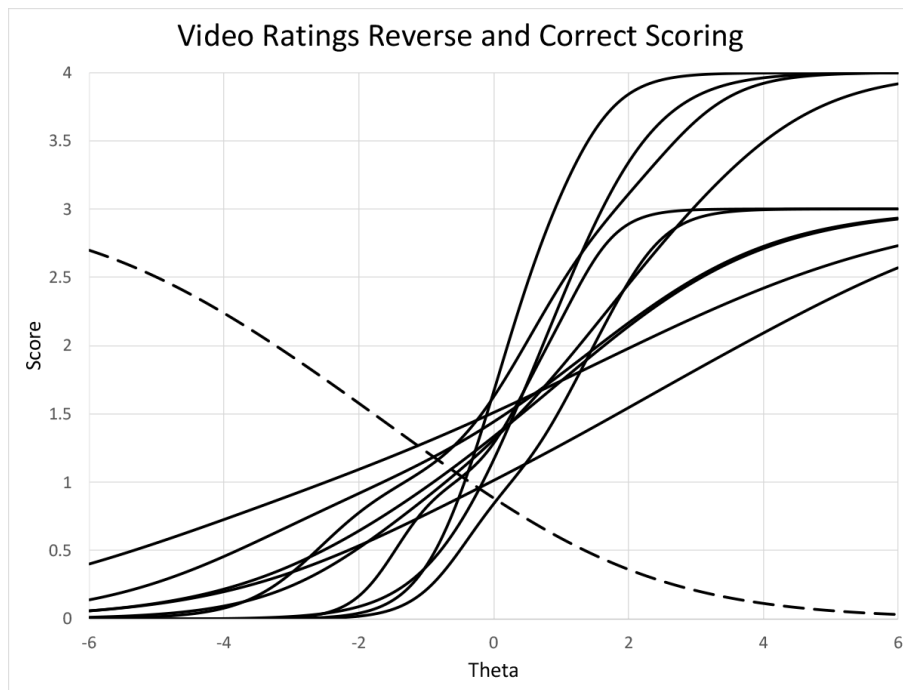


... can transiently normalize head posture:



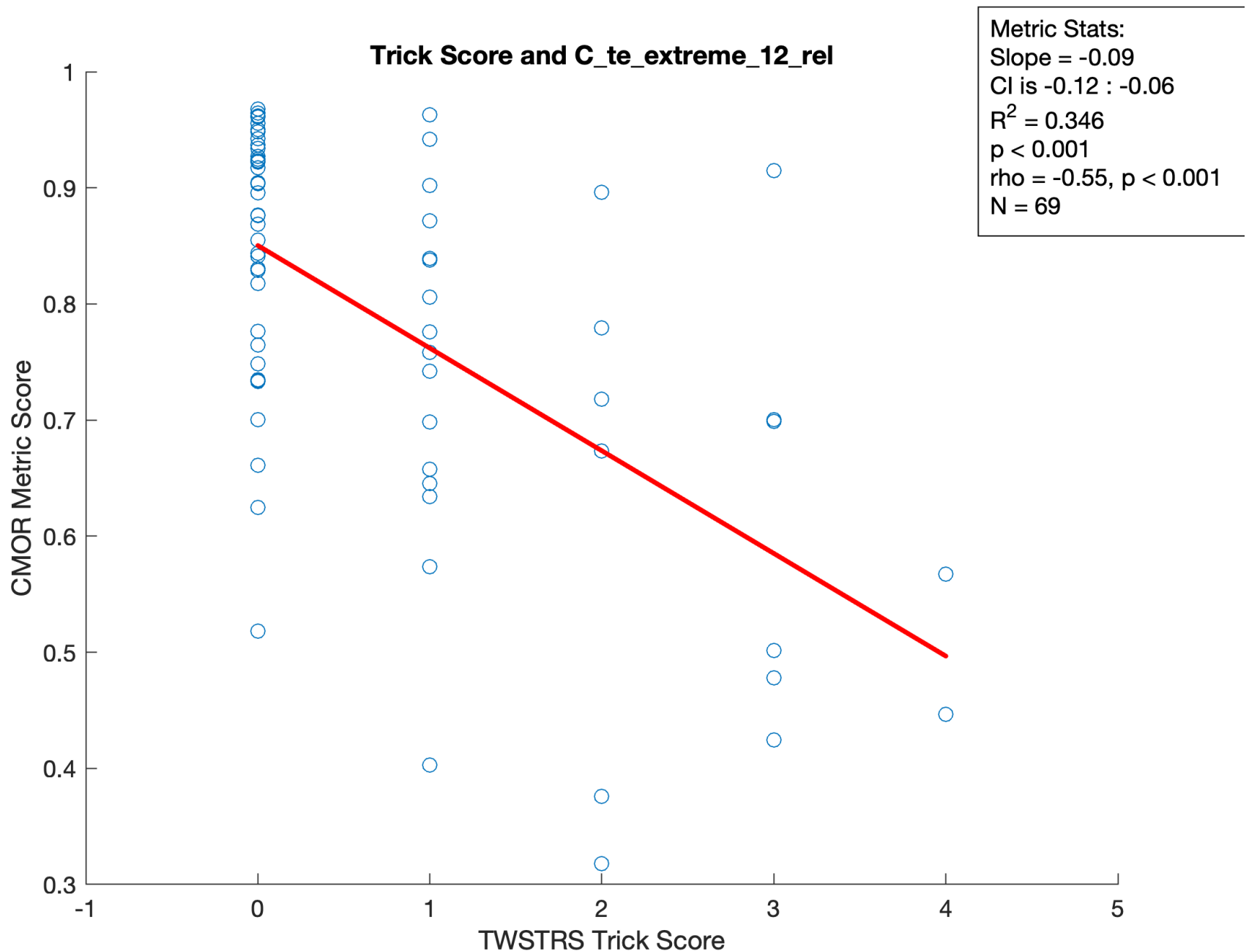
Sensory trick clinical ratings are so.... tricky

patient:	score_1	score_2	score_3	score_4	score_5
1	4	4	0	0	4
2	0	0	1	0	0
3	2	2	1	1	1
4	1	2	1	2	1
5	0	1	0	1	2
6	3	2	0	0	4



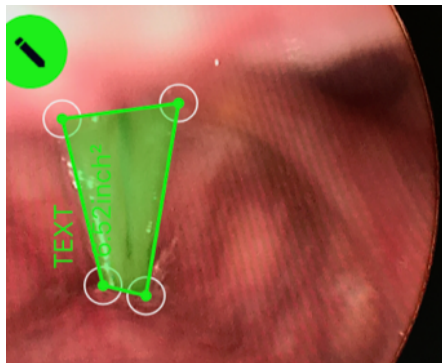
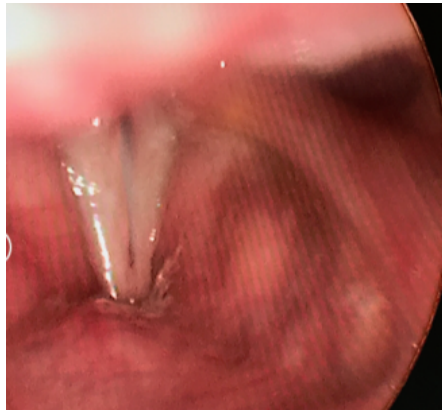
Cisneros et al. (under review)

Capturing the sensory trick efficacy with CMOR



LD: is severity evident in vocal fold dynamics
(as seen in nasolaryngoscopic videos)?

(with Gerald Berke and Abie Mendelsohn)



Broader Relevance and future directions

- Subtyping:
 - CD: “jerky” vs. “regular” tremor
(ET consensus definition took 6 years)
 - LD: ADSD v. ABSD ? tremor?
- Basic research on mechanisms
 - more temporally precise motor correlates?
 - genotyping <—> phenotyping
- Telemedicine and mobile implementation
 - Including integration with PCO initiatives



Collaborators and Sponsors

DMRF

Dystonia Coalition

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CNL, Salk**

**Jake Whitehill,
Worcester Polytechnic**

**Cindy Comella, Glenn Stebbins
Rush University Medical Center**

Brian Berman, U Colorado

A photograph of a modern building at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on a wet, paved surface in the foreground. The building's dark, angular silhouettes frame the central view of the sunset. The sky is filled with soft, dark clouds.

Thank you

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