

# A Contemporary Approach to Status Epilepticus

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- The annual incidence of Status epilepticus(SE) is estimated to be 17–23 episodes per 100,000 children per year
- 10% - 25% of patients presenting with SE will have Refractory Status epilepticus (RSE)
- Significant morbidity and mortality

# Overview

- Changes and current recommendations
- Evidence
- Current practice
- Time to treatment and outcome

# Definitions



neurocritical Neurocrit Care

care society

DOI 10.1007/s12028-012-9695-z

REVIEW

## Guidelines for the Evaluation and Management of Status Epilepticus

Neurocrit Care 17:3-23, 2012

EPILEPSY CURRENTS

American Epilepsy Society Guideline



**Evidence-Based Guideline: Treatment of Convulsive Status Epilepticus in Children and Adults: Report of the Guideline Committee of the American Epilepsy Society**

Epilepsy Currents, Vol. 16, No. 1 (January/February) 2016 pp. 48–61

## Status epilepticus:

- defined as 5 minutes or more of:
  - continuous clinical and/or electrographic seizure activity or
  - recurrent seizure activity without recovery (returning to baseline) between seizures

## Refractory Status epilepticus :

- defined as clinical or electrographic seizures that persist after administration of an adequate dose of initial benzodiazepine and a second appropriate anti-seizure medication

# American Epilepsy Society Guideline

Time Line

Interventions for emergency department, in-patient setting, or prehospital setting with trained paramedics

0-5 min  
Stabilization  
phase

1. Stabilize patient (airway, breathing, circulation, disability - neurologic exam)
2. Time seizure from its onset, monitor vital signs
3. Assess oxygenation, give oxygen via nasal cannula/mask, consider intubation if respiratory assistance needed
4. Initiate ECG monitoring
5. Collect finger stick blood glucose. If glucose < 60 mg/dl then  
 Adults: 100 mg thiamine IV then 50 ml D50W IV  
 Children  $\geq$  2 years: 2 ml/kg D25W IV      Children < 2 years: 4 ml/kg D12.5W
6. Attempt IV access and collect electrolytes, hematology, toxicology screen, (if appropriate) anticonvulsant drug levels

Yes No  
 Does Seizure continue?

5-20 min  
Initial therapy  
phase

**A benzodiazepine is the initial therapy of choice (Level A):**  
 Choose one of the following 3 equivalent first line options with dosing and frequency:  
 Intramuscular midazolam (10 mg for > 40 kg, 5 mg for 13-40 kg, single dose, Level A) OR  
 Intravenous lorazepam (0.1 mg/kg/dose, max: 4 mg/dose, may repeat dose once, Level A) OR  
 Intravenous diazepam (0.15-0.2 mg/kg/dose, max: 10 mg/dose, may repeat dose once, Level A)  
 If none of the 3 options above are available, choose one of the following:  
 Intravenous phenobarbital (15 mg/kg/dose, single dose, Level A) OR  
 Rectal diazepam (0.2-0.5 mg/kg, max: 20 mg/dose, single dose, Level B) OR  
 Intranasal midazolam (Level B), buccal midazolam (Level B)

If patient at baseline,  
then symptomatic  
medical care

Yes No  
 Does seizure continue?

20-40 min  
Second therapy  
phase

**There is no evidence based preferred second therapy of choice (Level U):**  
 Choose one of the following second line options and give as a single dose  
 Intravenous fosphenytoin (20 mg PE/kg, max: 1500 mg PE/dose, single dose, Level U) OR  
 Intravenous valproic acid (40 mg/kg, max: 3000 mg/dose, single dose, Level B) OR  
 Intravenous levetiracetam (60 mg/kg, max: 4500 mg/dose, single dose, Level U)  
 If none of the options above are available, choose one of the following (if not given already)  
 Intravenous phenobarbital (15 mg/kg, max dose, Level B)

If patient at baseline,  
then symptomatic  
medical care

Yes No  
 Does seizure continue?

40-60 min  
Third therapy  
phase

**There is no clear evidence to guide therapy in this phase (Level U):**  
 Choices include: repeat second line therapy or anesthetic doses of either thiopental, midazolam, pentobarbital, or propofol (all with continuous EEG monitoring).

If patient at baseline,  
then symptomatic  
medical care

# American Epilepsy Society Guideline

Time Line

0-5 min  
Stabilization  
phase

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# American Epilepsy Society Guideline

5-20 min  
Initial therapy  
phase

**A benzodiazepine is the initial therapy of choice (Level A):**

Choose one of the following 3 equivalent first line options with dosing and frequency:

- Intramuscular midazolam (10 mg for > 40 kg, 5 mg for 13-40 kg, single dose, Level A) OR
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- Intranasal midazolam (Level B), buccal midazolam (Level B)



# American Epilepsy Society Guideline

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Choose one of the following second line options and give as a single dose

Intravenous fosphenytoin (20 mg PE/kg, max: 1500 mg PE/dose, single dose , Level U) OR

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Intravenous levetiracetam (60 mg/kg, max: 4500 mg/dose, single dose , Level U)

If none of the options above are available, choose one of the following (if not given already)

Intravenous phenobarbital (15 mg/kg, max dose, Level B)

20-40 min  
Second therapy  
phase

# American Epilepsy Society Guideline

40-60 min  
Third therapy  
phase

**There is no clear evidence to guide therapy in this phase (Level U):**

Choices include: repeat second line therapy or anesthetic doses of either thiopental, midazolam, pentobarbital, or propofol (all with continuous EEG monitoring).

- Treatment to be guided by cEEG monitoring
- Goal is termination of all clinical and electrographic seizure activity as early as possible
- In patients with RSE
  - “a period of 24-48 hours of electrographic control is recommended before slow withdrawal of continuous infusion of anticonvulsants ”

# Choice of Anti epileptic drug: first line

- Only the first line treatment with benzodiazepine (BZD) has strong evidence
- RAMPART trial included 120 children randomized to IM midazolam ( $n = 60$ ) or IV lorazepam ( $n = 60$ )
- Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN). Lorazepam vs diazepam for pediatric status epilepticus: *JAMA* 2014;311:1652–1660

# Choice of Anti epileptic drug: second line

Seizure 23 (2014) 167–174



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Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Seizure

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/yseiz](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/yseiz)

Review

The relative effectiveness of five antiepileptic drugs in treatment of benzodiazepine-resistant convulsive status epilepticus: A meta-analysis of published studies

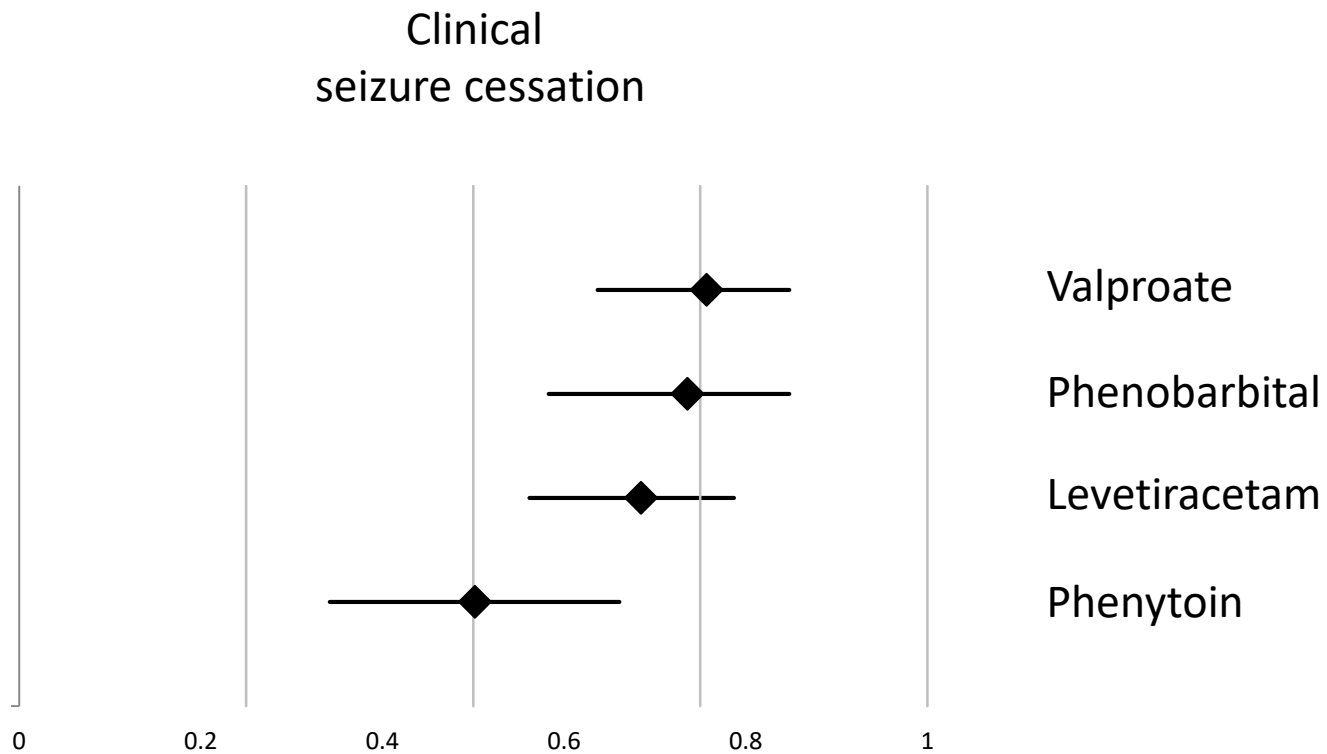
Zeid Yasiry<sup>a,\*</sup>, Simon D. Shorvon<sup>b</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> Department of Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy, UCL Institute of Neurology, London, UK

# Summary

## Meta-analysis Estimates of efficacy



# Second line agent: upcoming trials

- The Convulsive Status Epilepticus Paediatric Trial (ConSEPT)
- Emergency treatment with Levetirecetam or Phenytoin in Status Epilepticus in children- the EcLIPSE study
- The Established Status Epilepticus Treatment Trial (ESETT) – comparing valproate, levetiracetam, and phenytoin (or fosphenytoin)

# Third line: Pharmacological Coma

- Two most commonly used- Midazolam, Thiopentone
- No evidence that one is better than other in RSE
- Midazolam most commonly used initial agent
- Midazolam likely have less adverse effects



# Midazolam infusion

- If seizures persist or recur: bolus and increase infusion by 2mcg/kg/min every 5 minutes
- Dose range: upto 30mcg/kg/min
- If no response- rapid escalation to second agent

# Other Drugs:

- Ketamine

KETASER01- Efficacy of ketamine in refractory convulsive status epilepticus in children

- Lignocaine
- Magnesium Sulphate
- Propofol
- Inhaled Anaesthetics

# Alternative therapies

- Immunomodulatory therapy
- Ketogenic Diet
- Therapeutic Hypothermia
- Vagal Nerve stimulation
- Epilepsy surgery

# Current practice

## ARTICLES

### Time from convulsive status epilepticus onset to anticonvulsant administration in children



Iván Sánchez Fernández, MD  
Nicholas S. Abend, MD  
Satish Agadi, MD  
Sookee An, BA  
Ravindra Arya, MD, DM  
James Nicholas Brenton, MD  
Jessica L. Carpenter, MD  
Kevin E. Chapman, MD  
William D. Gaillard, MD  
Tracy A. Glauser, MD  
Howard P. Goodkin, MD, PhD  
Kush Kapur, PhD  
Mohamad A. Mikati, MD  
Katrina Peariso, MD  
Margie Ream, MD  
James Riviello, Jr., MD  
Robert C. Tasker, MBBS, MD  
Tobias Loddenkemper, MD  
And the Pediatric Status Epilepticus Research Group (pSERG)

#### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To describe the time elapsed from onset of pediatric convulsive status epilepticus (SE) to administration of antiepileptic drug (AED).

**Methods:** This was a prospective observational cohort study performed from June 2011 to June 2013. Pediatric patients (1 month–21 years) with convulsive SE were enrolled. In order to study timing of AED administration during all stages of SE, we restricted our study population to patients who failed 2 or more AED classes or needed continuous infusions to terminate convulsive SE.

**Results:** We enrolled 81 patients (44 male) with a median age of 3.6 years. The first, second, and third AED doses were administered at a median ( $p_{25}$ – $p_{75}$ ) time of 28 (6–67) minutes, 40 (20–85) minutes, and 59 (30–120) minutes after SE onset. Considering AED classes, the initial AED was a benzodiazepine in 78 (96.3%) patients and 2 (2–3) doses of benzodiazepines were administered before switching to nonbenzodiazepine AEDs. The first and second doses of nonbenzodiazepine AEDs were administered at 69 (40–120) minutes and 120 (75–296) minutes. In the 64 patients with out-of-hospital SE onset, 40 (62.5%) patients did not receive any AED before hospital arrival. In the hospital setting, the first and second in-hospital AED doses were given at 8 (5–15) minutes and 16 (10–40) minutes after SE onset (for patients with in-hospital SE onset) or after hospital arrival (for patients with out-of-hospital SE onset).

**Conclusions:** The time elapsed from SE onset to AED administration and escalation from one class of AED to another is delayed, both in the prehospital and in-hospital settings. *Neurology*® 2015;84:2304–2311

#### GLOSSARY

**AED** = antiepileptic drug; **BZD** = benzodiazepine; **EMS** = Emergency Medical Services; **ICU** = intensive care unit; **pSERG** = pediatric Status Epilepticus Research Group; **RCSE** = refractory convulsive status epilepticus; **SCC** = Spearman correlation coefficient; **SE** = status epilepticus.

## Key findings:

- Only 38% patients receive anti-epileptic drug (AED) before arrival to hospital
- Significant delay in administration of AED
  - The median time until administration of the first, second, and third AED doses were 28 (6–67) minutes, 40 (20–85) minutes, and 59 (30–120) minutes
- Once in the hospital, patients received repeated doses of BZDs

# Current practice



## Refractory Status Epilepticus in Children: Intention to Treat With Continuous Infusions of Midazolam and Pentobarbital\*

Robert C. Tasker, MD, FRCP<sup>1,2</sup>; Howard P. Goodkin, MD, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Iván Sánchez Fernández, MD<sup>2,4</sup>; Kevin E. Chapman, MD<sup>5</sup>; Nicholas S. Abend, MD, MSCE<sup>6</sup>; Ravindra Arya, MD, DM<sup>7</sup>; James N. Brenton, MD<sup>3</sup>; Jessica L. Carpenter, MD<sup>8</sup>; William D. Gaillard, MD<sup>8</sup>; Tracy A. Glauser, MD<sup>7</sup>; Joshua Goldstein, MD<sup>9</sup>; Ashley R. Helseth, MD, PhD<sup>10</sup>; Michele C. Jackson, BA<sup>2,4</sup>; Kush Kapur, PhD<sup>4</sup>; Mohamad A. Mikati, MD<sup>10</sup>; Katrina Peariso, MD<sup>7</sup>; Mark S. Wainwright, MD, PhD<sup>9</sup>; Angus A. Wilfong, MD<sup>11</sup>; Korwyn Williams, MD, PhD<sup>12</sup>; Tobias Loddenkemper, MD<sup>2,4</sup>; on behalf of the Pediatric Status Epilepticus Research Group (pSERG)

## Key findings:

- median of 5 doses of AED given before the infusion started
- prolonged duration of seizure activity before initiation of midazolam infusion (median of 145 min)
- timing to escalate to second anesthetic (pentobarbital) – 24 hours
- endpoint for seizure termination used – Clinical seizure in 48%

JAMA Neurology | **Original Investigation**

# Association of Time to Treatment With Short-term Outcomes for Pediatric Patients With Refractory Convulsive Status Epilepticus

Marina Gáinza-Lein; Iván Sánchez Fernández, MD, MPH; Michele Jackson, MS; Nicholas S. Abend, MD; Ravindra Arya, MD, DM; J. Nicholas Brenton, MD; Jessica L. Carpenter, MD; Kevin E. Chapman, MD; William D. Gaillard, MD; Tracy A. Glauser, MD; Joshua L. Goldstein, MD; Howard P. Goodkin, MD, PhD; Kush Kapur, PhD; Mohamad A. Mikati, MD; Katrina Peariso, MD, PhD; Robert C. Tasker, MBBS; Dmitry Tchapyjnikov, MD; Alexis A. Topjian, MD, MSCE; Mark S. Wainwright, MD, PhD; Angus Wilfong, MD; Korwyn Williams, MD, PhD; Tobias Loddenkemper, MD; for the Pediatric Status Epilepticus Research Group

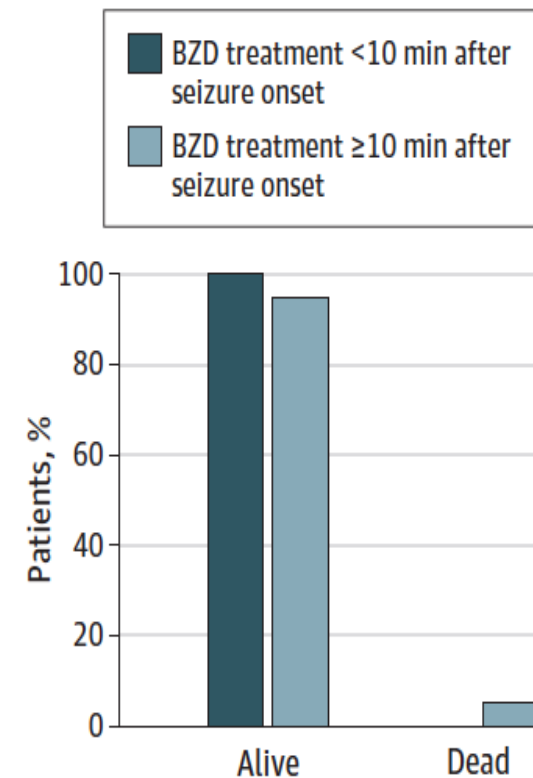


- pSERG multicentre prospective study
- 218 pts from 11 hospitals
- Patients divided in 2 cohorts:
  - received initial BZD in < 10 minutes or at 10 or more minutes after seizure onset (untimely)
- Primary outcome - death during hospital admission
- Secondary outcome - need for continuous infusion for seizure termination

# Results

- 66.1% received untimely first-line BZD treatment
- On multivariate analysis after controlling for structural etiology, febrile RCSE, age, and no neurological history:  
Adjusted odds ratio (AOR) of death was 11 for patients with untimely first-line BZD treatment

A Untimely first-line BZD treatment and association with death





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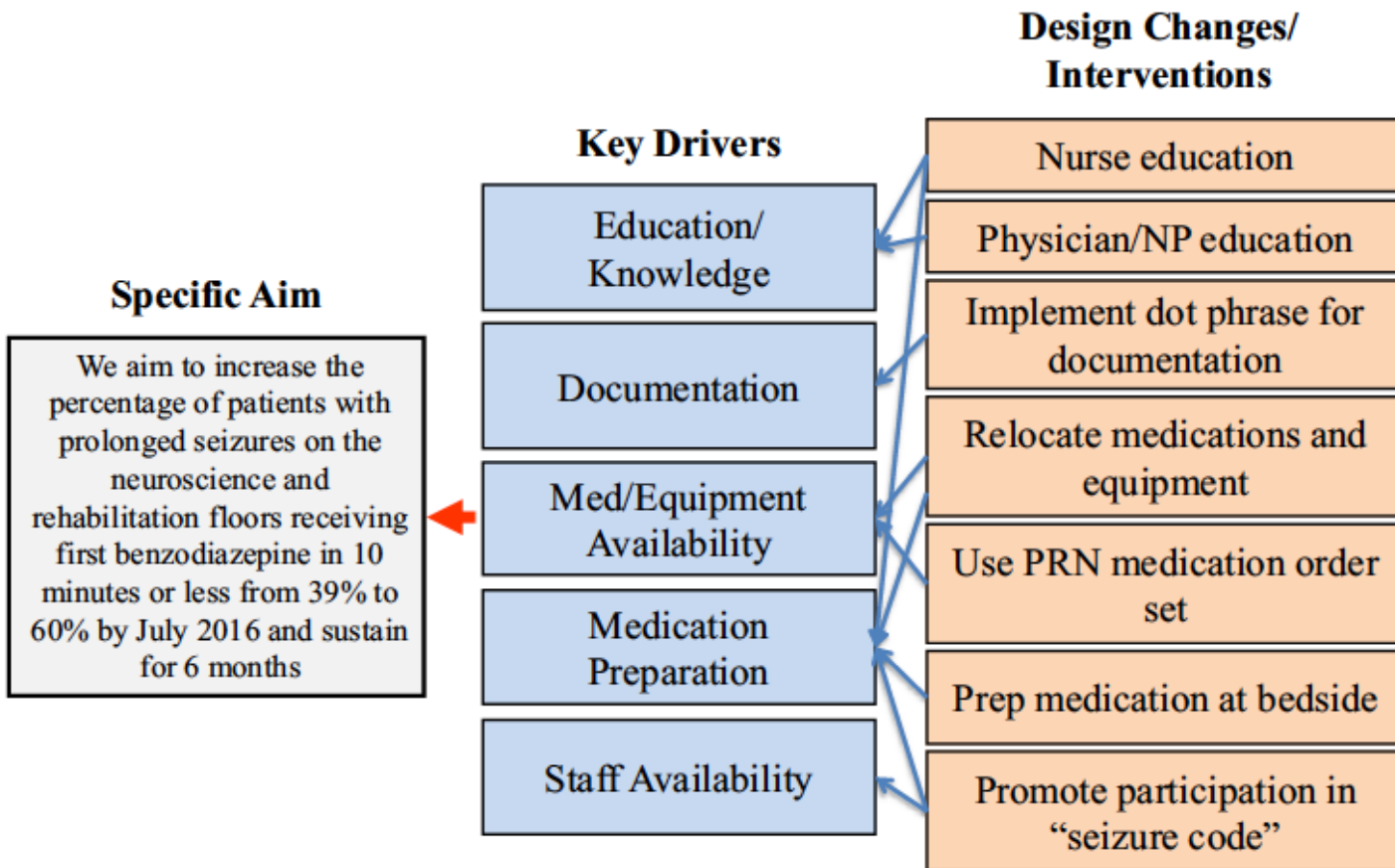
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/pnu](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pnu)



Original Article

# Decreasing Seizure Treatment Time Through Quality Improvement Reduces Critical Care Utilization

Adam P. Ostendorf, MD <sup>a,b\*</sup>, Kelsey Merison, MD <sup>b</sup>,  
T. Arthur Wheeler, MS, MSES, MBA <sup>b</sup>, Anup D. Patel, MD <sup>a,b</sup>



Seventeen months after starting the project:

- median time to treat seizures decreased from a baseline of 14 minutes to 7.5 minutes( $P = 0.01$ )
- The proportion of patients transferred to ICU decreased from a baseline of 39% to 9%( $P < 0.005$ )
- An estimated \$2.1 million of hospital charges were mitigated.

# Summary

- Status epilepticus is a neurological emergency
- Treatment should be started early and escalated rapidly
- Time to treatment is critical in improving management and outcome



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## Seizure

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/yseiz](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/yseiz)



### Review

Towards acute pediatric status epilepticus intervention teams: Do we need “Seizure Codes”?

Coral M. Stredny<sup>a,\*</sup>, Nicholas S. Abend<sup>b</sup>, Tobias Loddenkemper<sup>a</sup>





Thanks