

BRAIN COMMUNICATIONS

Independently together: subthalamic theta and beta opposite roles in predicting Parkinson's tremor

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Tremor is a core feature of Parkinson's disease and the most easily recognized Parkinsonian sign. Nonetheless, its pathophysiology remains poorly understood. Here, we show that multispectral spiking activity in the posterior-dorso-lateral oscillatory (motor) region of the subthalamic nucleus distinguishes resting tremor from the other Parkinsonian motor signs and strongly correlates with its severity. We evaluated microelectrode-spiking activity from the subthalamic dorsolateral oscillatory region of 70 Parkinson's disease patients who underwent deep brain stimulation surgery (114 subthalamic nuclei, 166 electrode trajectories). We then investigated the relationship between patients' clinical Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale score and their peak theta (4–7 Hz) and beta (13–30 Hz) powers. We found a positive correlation between resting tremor and theta activity ($r = 0.41$, $P < 0.01$) and a non-significant negative correlation with beta activity ($r = -0.2$, $P = 0.5$). Hypothesizing that the two neuronal frequencies mask each other's relationship with resting tremor, we created a non-linear model of their proportional spectral powers and investigated its relationship with resting tremor. As hypothesized, patients' proportional scores correlated better than either theta or beta alone ($r = 0.54$, $P < 0.001$). However, theta and beta oscillations were frequently temporally correlated (38/70 patients manifested significant positive temporal correlations and 1/70 exhibited significant negative correlation between the two frequency bands). When comparing theta and beta temporal relationship ($r_{\theta\beta}$) to patients' resting tremor scores, we found a significant negative correlation between the two ($r = -0.38$, $P < 0.01$). Patients manifesting a positive correlation between the two bands (i.e. theta and beta were likely to appear simultaneously) were found to have lower resting tremor scores than those with near-zero correlation values (i.e. theta and beta were likely to appear separately). We therefore created a new model incorporating patients' proportional theta–beta power and $r_{\theta\beta}$ scores to obtain an improved neural correlate of resting tremor ($r = 0.62$, $P < 0.001$). We then used the Akaike and Bayesian information criteria for model selection and found the multispectral model, incorporating theta–beta proportional power and their correlation, to be the best fitting model, with 0.96 and 0.89 probabilities, respectively. Here we found that as theta increases, beta decreases and the two appear separately—resting tremor is worsened. Our results therefore show that theta and beta convey information about resting tremor in opposite ways. Furthermore, the finding that theta and beta coactivity is negatively correlated with resting tremor suggests that theta–beta non-linear scale may be a valuable biomarker for Parkinson's resting tremor in future adaptive deep brain stimulation techniques.

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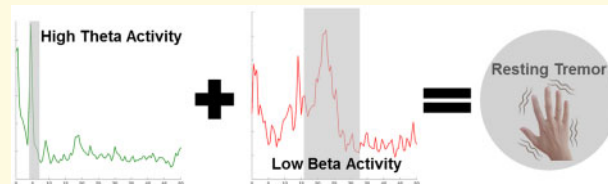
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Abbreviations: ActT = action tremor; DBS = deep brain stimulation; ResT = resting tremor; STN = subthalamic nucleus; UPDRS = Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale

Graphical Abstract



Introduction

Four major groups of signs characterize the motor deficits observed in Parkinson's disease: loss/slowness of automatic movement (akinesia/bradykinesia), muscle stiffness (rigidity), tremor and postural instability with gait deficits. Nonetheless, the disease's clinical phenotype is quite heterogeneous, with different signs more or less prominent or even absent in individual patients (Von Coelln and Shulman, 2016). To better understand this heterogeneity, studies have explored the interrelationships between signs and have identified two subtypes of patients: tremor-dominant and postural instability with gait deficits, also dominated by bradykinesia and rigidity (Marras and Lang, 2013; Thenganatt and Jankovic, 2014).

Over the years, accumulating evidence suggests that tremor signs are independent of the other Parkinsonian motor signs (Stochl *et al.*, 2008; Helmich *et al.*, 2012). In addition, extensive clinical data indicate that the different subtypes have different clinical courses. Not only do tremor-dominant patients show slower disease progression and less cognitive decline, but their neuropathology seems to be different than that of the postural instability with gait deficits group (Eggers *et al.*, 2011). Furthermore, the tremor response to dopamine therapy is more erratic than the response of patients with akinetic-rigid signs (Sotelo, 1997). Less consistently, some single-photon emission computed tomography studies have described higher striatal dopamine uptake in tremor-dominant patients (Spiegel *et al.*, 2007), whereas others have reported no significant difference between the tremor-dominant and postural instability with gait deficits subtypes (Lee *et al.*, 2019). Recent research indicates that Parkinson's motor subtypes are not fixed and that patients' subtype may change with disease progression and treatment (Luo *et al.*, 2019). Nonetheless, patients' resting tremor (ResT) signs seem to be independent of the non-tremor signs regardless of subtype.

Parkinsonian signs have been found to correlate with specific neural oscillatory activity, specifically in the cortex and basal ganglia (Kühn *et al.*, 2006; Chen *et al.*, 2010; Contarino *et al.*, 2012; Little *et al.*, 2012; Beudel *et al.*, 2017; Hirschmann *et al.*, 2017). The subthalamic nucleus (STN), which is one of the major input nuclei to the basal ganglia (Deffains *et al.*, 2016), is believed to be at the core of Parkinson's pathophysiology (Deffains *et al.*, 2016, 2018). Its posterior-dorso-lateral region is characterized by increased oscillatory activity, especially in the theta and beta bands (Kühn *et al.*, 2005; Weinberger *et al.*, 2006; Trottenberg *et al.*, 2007; Zaidel *et al.*, 2009, 2010; Contarino *et al.*, 2012). Anatomic and neurophysiological data suggest that the STN posterior-dorso-lateral region subserves sensory-motor functions (Monakow *et al.*, 1978; Nambu *et al.*, 1996; Rodriguez-Oroz *et al.*, 2001; Romanelli *et al.*, 2005; Zaidel *et al.*, 2010; Haynes and Haber, 2013) and its oscillatory activity has been found to correlate with various Parkinson's disease signs. While tremor signs have been found to correlate with theta activity (Steigerwald *et al.*, 2008; Contarino *et al.*, 2012; Hirschmann *et al.*, 2017), akinesia/bradykinesia and rigidity have been found to correlate with beta activity (Kühn *et al.*, 2006, 2009; Weinberger *et al.*, 2006; Ray *et al.*, 2008).

Finally, for the past 25 years, deep brain stimulation (DBS) has been a therapeutic boon to patients with advanced Parkinson's disease. Stimulating at the precise location of STN theta/beta increased oscillatory activities seems to provide optimal therapeutic relief of patients' motor signs (Thobois *et al.*, 2006; Maks *et al.*, 2009; Zaidel *et al.*, 2010). Although the precise mechanisms remain to be elucidated, the finding that DBS reduces oscillatory activity (in targeted nuclei and networks) is believed to be a major mechanism driving the therapy (Tinkhauser *et al.*, 2017).

Understanding the underlying mechanisms of these signs is therefore imperative for a better understanding of

the pathophysiology of the disease as well as to tailor therapeutic neuromodulatory paradigms. To date, despite sign independency and different neural correlates, no attempt has been made to investigate the relationship and interplay of multispectral STN oscillations with specific Parkinson's disease motor signs, especially with the tremor phenomenon. For all these reasons, we decided to analyse the neuronal correlates of Parkinsonian ResT in the dorsolateral region of the STN.

Materials and methods

Patients

We collected data from 70 Parkinson's disease patients (27 females and 43 males) undergoing STN DBS surgery in our centre, which we used for the analysis and comparison of theta and beta activities and their relationship with ResT. Sixty-eight patients underwent a bilateral surgery and two patients underwent a unilateral surgery. To ensure quality and sufficient data for analysis, only trajectories crossing the STN for at least 4 mm and having dorsolateral oscillatory region >2 mm were included. Out of the 68 patients who underwent a bilateral surgery, 44 qualified for further analysis in both targeted hemispheres and 24 qualified for further analysis in one (11 presented with only one STN dorsolateral region that qualified in length, and 13 underwent staged surgeries, one for each side, their second surgery was beyond the time frame of this study). Thus, our neuronal database is composed of 114 STN and 166 STN electrode trajectories.

Patients were preoperatively assessed by a movement disorder expert during the off state, using the Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS) score. Only patients with complete UPDRS scoring profiles were included. Using patients' scores, we created a signs correlation matrix and were able to define four aggregative sub-scores reflecting ResT, rigidity, akinesia/bradykinesia and axial signs (Table 1). All aggregative sub-scores were expressed as the fraction of the patient's UPDRS sub-score out of the maximal sub-score possible (maximum of 20 for both rigidity and ResT, 44 for akinesia/bradykinesia and 16 for axial; e.g. a patient with a ResT score

of 12 would have a per cent-tremor score of $\frac{12}{20} = 0.6$). Thus, patients' aggregative clinical scores were all normalized between 0 and 1.

Patients underwent psychological, neurological, anaesthesia and surgical assessment and met all the standard criteria for STN DBS surgery (Lang and Widner, 2002; Machado *et al.*, 2006). All patients signed a written informed consent for the surgery that involved microelectrode recordings. Use of the data was approved by the institutional review board of Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel in accordance with the Helsinki declaration (reference code: 0168-10-HMO).

Data acquisition and inclusion criteria

The STN target coordinates were calculated by direct targeting with either 1.5 or 3 Tesla T2 MRI. On the day of the operation, a CRW stereotactic frame was attached to the patient and a high-resolution CT was performed. The T1, T2 MRI sequences were fused with the CT images (Framelink 4, 5 or Cranial, Medtronic, Minneapolis, USA) and the frame-based target coordinates and trajectory angles were calculated. For both the left and right hemispheres, a recording trajectory using one or two parallel microelectrodes (separated by 2 mm antero-posteriorly in the parasagittal plane) was made starting at 10 mm above the calculated target (lower third of the dorso-anterior-lateral to ventro-posterior-medial span of the STN). Usually, the hemisphere contra-lateral to the hemi-body with more severe clinical signs was first explored.

The electrophysiological data were acquired using two systems: MicroGuide (prior to 2014, *n* = 52 patients, method described previously by Zaidel *et al.*, 2009) and Neuro Omega (from 2014 onward, *n* = 18 patients, Alpha Omega, Nazareth, Israel). In the Neuro Omega system, raw and spike signals were amplified by 20, and sampled at 44 kHz by a 16-bit A/D converter (using ± 1.25 V input range; i.e. ~ 2-μV amplitude resolution). The raw signal was bandpass filtered from 0.075 to 10 000 Hz, using a hardware 2 and 3 pole Butterworth filter, respectively. The spiking signal (see exemplary trace in Fig. 1A) was further bandpass filtered from 300 to

Table 1 Grouping of Parkinson's disease motor symptoms

Akinesia/Bradykinesia	Rigidity	Resting tremor	Axial
Facial expression	Neck	Face	Posture
Finger taps	Upper extremities	Hands	Gait
Hand grips	Lower extremities	Feet	Postural stability
Pronation/supination			Speech
Leg agility			
Arise from chair			
Body bradykinesia			
Maximal score of 44	Maximal score of 20	Maximal score of 20	Maximal score of 16

PD Motor Symptoms Aggregative Scores. Symptoms were grouped into four groups of motor symptoms. Total score of all included symptoms is 100, action tremor symptoms were omitted.

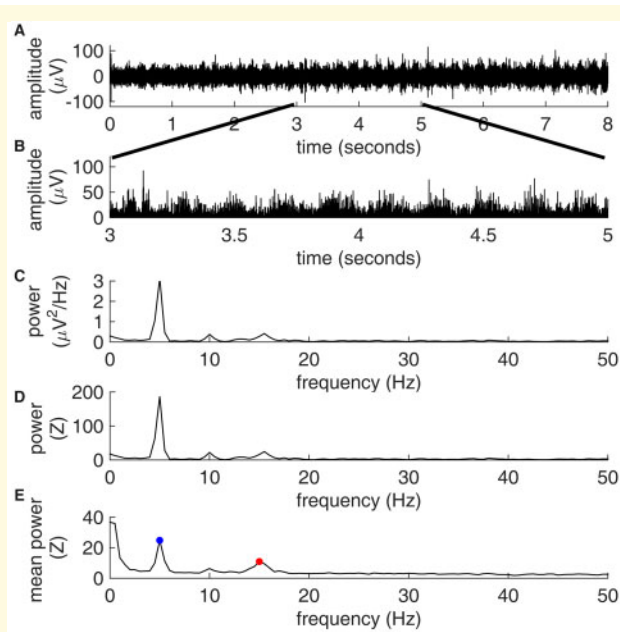


Figure 1 Exemplary recording segment and spectral analysis of a single patient. (A) Recording segment expressing elevated theta (oscillatory) spiking activity. (B) The same segment rectified (showing 2 s for clarity). (C) Power spectrum density (PSD) of the rectified segment. (D) The same PSD represented using the z-score. (E) Average PSD of the patient's STN DLOR spiking recordings ($n = 12$ segments, with mean recording length of 10.35 s, total recording time 124.2 s), blue and red circles represent the patient's peak theta and beta power, respectively.

9000 Hz, using a software 4-pole Butterworth filter. STN border and subdomains localization was determined intra-operatively by an expert neurophysiologist who inspected the microelectrode recorded traces. This was further confirmed by an automated computer-based Hidden Markov Model (HMM) analysis (Moran et al., 2006; Zaidel et al., 2009; Valsky et al., 2017), which was used to define the borders of both the STN and its dorsolateral region for the purpose of this research. Patients' level of alertness was continuously assessed and if drowsy, the patient was addressed and woken up through conversation by a member of the surgical team. Anti-Parkinsonian medications were discontinued at least 12 h prior to surgery.

Macro-stimulation was tested at the ventral border of the oscillatory domain of the STN. If the two microelectrodes crossed >4 mm STN, the trajectory with the largest STN length and oscillatory domain was the first to be tested. If the therapeutic window was not adequate, macro-stimulation was performed with the other microelectrode and at different depths. The final location of the permanent implanted lead was based on the results of MERs, and the results of macro-stimulation. The permanent lead was implanted such that the ventral edge of the desired contact (second contact from below; e.g. contact

#1 in Medtronic 3789 lead) was positioned at the location of the stimulation testing; i.e. usually at the lower border of the STN dorsolateral region (Zaidel et al., 2010). Postoperative CT imaging was fused with the preoperative MRI to confirm that the electrode location was within the image-defined STN.

Recordings from the STN had to satisfy inclusion criteria detailed below. Since we were interested in spiking activity at the population level, we assessed the oscillatory characteristics of multi-unit spiking activity (band-passed between 300 and 6000 Hz) using its power spectral density. Analysis of the multi-unit activity instead of the on-line or offline isolated single-spike analysis reduced the operating room recording time (no need for optimization of the microelectrode positioning) but still provided us with valuable information on background activity and spiking activity at the population level.

Operating room recordings are often unstable (due to brain tissue movement in relation to the electrode tip, neuronal injuries, etc.); therefore, all recording traces were subjected to a two-stage signal stability screening test. First, to ensure data credibility and appropriate frequency resolution, all segments shorter than 4 s were excluded. Second, qualifying data traces were analysed for recording stability. Each data trace was segmented into consecutive 50 ms long bins and their root mean square value calculated. A section of the trace was considered stable if all corresponding segment values lay within 3 SDs of the median. The longest stable section of the data trace was then selected for further analysis, and the rest of the trace was discarded. These selected stable sections had to be longer than 4 s in length. This type of stability analysis rejects infrequent events such as glitches (spurious electronic signals caused by brief, unwanted surges of electric power) or cell injury but does not reject >1 Hz oscillatory activity (Zaidel et al., 2010).

Spectral analysis

To assess the low-frequency modulations of the high-frequency spiking discharge, we employed the full-wave rectification method (Journee, 1983; Myers et al., 2003; Moran et al., 2008); i.e. analysis of the absolute value of the band-passed filtered analogue signal (Fig. 1A and B). This was followed by subtraction of the mean to remove the DC component, which was created by the signal rectification, i.e. $[x(i)]_{FWR} = |x(i)| - \langle x \rangle$. Using the rectified signal, which follows the envelope of multi-unit activity, we were able to detect periodic oscillations with frequencies below the range of the operating room band-pass filter (250–6000 Hz) built into the MicroGuide system. The data acquired from the 18 patients undergoing surgery using the newer Neuro Omega system (with a broader built-in band-pass filter) were filtered offline in the same manner (250–6000 Hz) to represent the same type of activity as the MicroGuide system. Since the local field potential frequency domain was filtered out, our resulting

power spectrum density only represents spiking activity (Supplementary Fig. 1).

Oscillatory characteristics were assessed using the power spectrum density of the full-wave rectified signal. Each trace's power spectral density was calculated using the Welch method, with a 2 s Hanning window, 50% overlap and 0.5 Hz resolution (Fig. 1C). Artificial changes in the recorded voltage and its calculated power may arise due to minor inconsistencies of impedance across different electrodes and patients. Furthermore, as the electrode progresses through the tissue, the total power of the recorded signal may vary. In order to control for these confounding effects and enable comparability across different patients, we normalized the data by the z-score method (Fig. 1D). Since dividing by the SD of the entire signal may cause an undesired interaction between theta and beta powers, each power spectrum density segment was normalized by its tail's (31–100 Hz) SD value (Supplementary Figs 2 and 3). Finally, averaging over all patients' electrode trajectories (that met the inclusion criteria, mean recording time of 519 s/patient), patients' mean power spectral density was calculated. Patients' peak theta and beta activities were defined as the strongest power in each frequency range (Fig. 1E).

Theta–beta temporal correlation

To assess the temporal relationship between the two bands, patients' STN recordings were divided into non-overlapping 2-s-long segments. All patients had at least 100 recording seconds, resulting in at least 50 recording segments. Each segment was evaluated for its power spectral density using a windowed fast Fourier transform, with a 2 s Hanning window and 0.5 Hz resolution. Power spectral densities were then z-scored as detailed above. Each segment's power spectral density peak theta and beta powers were determined and the correlation between the two vectors containing the band powers was evaluated.

Statistical analysis

For correlation analyses, the correlation coefficient is represented by the letter '*r*'. The corresponding probability value, *P*, is the probability of getting '*r*' as large as the observed value by random chance when the true correlation is zero and was computed by transforming the correlation to create a t-statistic. When there were multiple comparisons, the Bonferroni correction was used (i.e. the obtained *P*-value was multiplied by the number of comparisons) before significance testing ($P < 0.05$) and is presented as such. For the calculation of correlation averages, correlation values were z-transformed, then the average and SD were calculated and reversed back using the inverse z-transform. To compare different linear models, we used two information criteria for model selection, the Akaike information criterion and the Bayesian

information criterion. We then calculated each model's weight. Model weight can be interpreted as the probability that it is the best model, given the data and the set of candidate models (Burnham and Anderson, 2002) to find the best-fitting model.

Data availability

Data analysis was carried out using custom MATLAB software, (MATLAB V8.4, Mathworks, Natick, MA). Code can be found on our lab's web site <http://basalganglia.huji.ac.il>.

Results

Parkinson's resting tremor is an independent motor sign

To study the relationship between Parkinson's disease motor signs, we created a correlation matrix of patients' UPDRS motor scores. Two seemingly separate groups of signs appeared to emerge from the correlation matrix: tremor and non-tremor (Fig. 2A and Supplementary Fig. 4). The tremor UPDRS score is composed of two types of tremor: ResT and action tremor (ActT). Analysis of the relationship between tremor and non-tremor subcategories showed that ActT correlation values with the non-tremor sign are significantly higher than those of ResT (Fig. 2B), setting ActT apart from the ResT group.

The differentiation between ActT and ResT was further strengthened by the subcategories' relationship with neural activity. A comparison of patients' theta activity with their preoperative UPDRS off scores revealed a significant correlation between each ResT subcategory and patients' averaged theta activity (Fig. 2C). On the other hand, ActT was not significantly correlated with this activity ($r = 0.12$, $P > 0.05$, *P*-values were Bonferroni corrected due to five comparisons of theta activity with tremor subcategories and ResT). We therefore categorized ResT as a separate group, excluding ActT (Table 1). This group was found to have no significant correlation with any of the other aggregative group scores (Fig. 2D–F).

We further investigated the relationship between ResT and non-tremor groups of signs using Fisher's exact test of independence. For that purpose, we divided the patients into two groups, as a function of their signs' severity (i.e. akinesia/bradykinesia, rigidity, ResT and axial). Patients with individual scores above the population mean (the same results were obtained using the population median) were considered as having high values and those with values below the population mean were considered as having low values (Supplementary Table 1). A Fisher's exact test of independence between ResT and other sign groups did not reject the null hypothesis (H0: the two variables are independent) for any of the group pairs (all *P*-values were greater than 0.05). While our

inability to reject the null hypothesis does not *prove* that they are independent, it does provide support for the hypothesis that ResT is an independent Parkinson's disease sign.

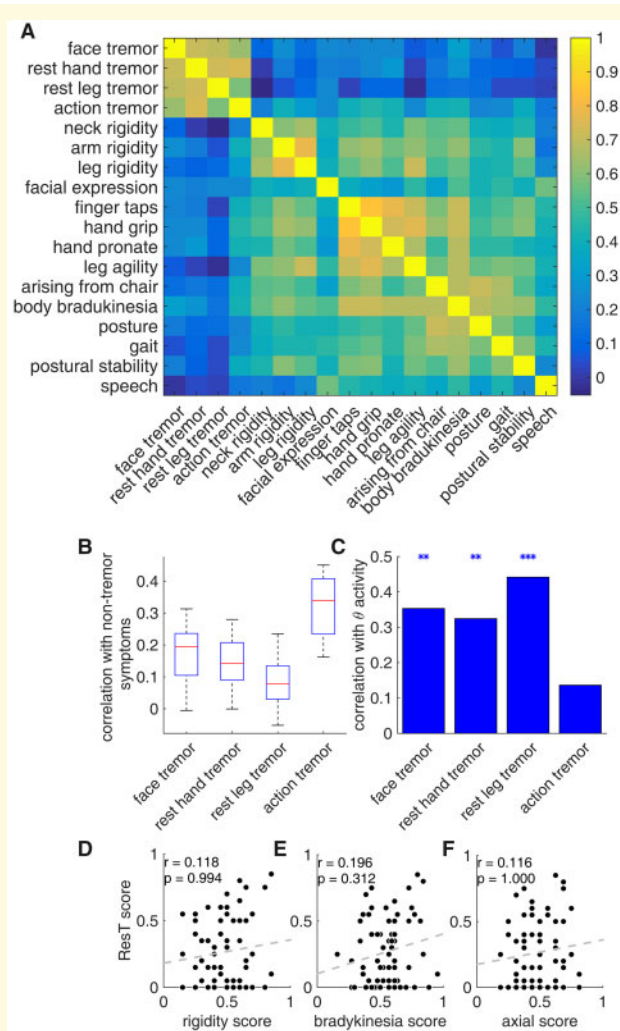


Figure 2 Parkinson's resting tremor is independent of the non-tremor motor signs. **(A)** Sign correlation matrix, representing Pearson's correlation coefficient [colour scale (blue to yellow) from zero to one; although r values range from minus to plus one, no negative values were found]. **(B)** Boxplot representing the correlation values of tremor subcategories with non-tremor subcategories (14 correlation values in each group). Red lines represent the median, blue box represents the first and third quartiles, and maximum and minimum values are indicated by the edges. **(C)** Correlation values of the tremor subcategories with theta spiking activity. Asterisks represent significant results ($*P < 0.05$, $**P < 0.01$, $***P < 0.001$). **(D)** Scatterplot of patients' resting tremor score versus rigidity score (patients' scores were calculated as the individual score in a certain category divided by the maximal score possible in that category). **(E)** Scatter plot of patients' resting tremor score versus bradykinesia score. **(F)** Scatterplot of patients' resting tremor score versus axial score. Correlation values and their corresponding P -values are represented by r and P , respectively, $n = 70$ patients.

Theta and beta oscillations have opposing relationships with resting tremor signs

After identifying ResT as an independent sign, we then examined its neural correlates. For that purpose, we recorded STN spiking activity of 70 Parkinson's disease patients undergoing DBS surgery (total of 114 STNs, and 166 STN electrode trajectories) and calculated their peak theta and beta oscillation powers. A comparison of patients' peak theta power with their aggregative ResT scores indicated that the two were significantly correlated ($r_{\theta, \text{ResT}} = 0.41$, $r_{\theta, \text{ResT}}^2 = 0.17$, $P < 0.01$, Fig. 3A). This finding is in line with previous reports (Hutchison *et al.*, 1997; Amtage *et al.*, 2008). On the other hand, a comparison of beta activity with ResT, while not yielding a significant correlation, ($r_{\beta, \text{ResT}} = -0.2$, $r_{\beta, \text{ResT}}^2 = 0.04$, $P > 0.05$) was suggestive of a tendency towards a negative relationship (Fig. 3B, P -values were Bonferroni

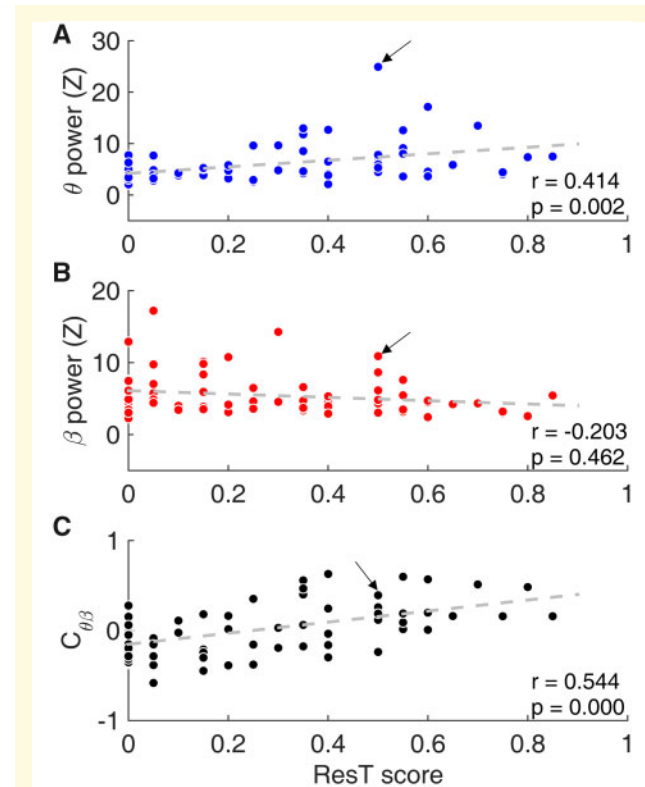


Figure 3 Theta and beta oscillations have opposing relationships with resting tremor signs. **(A)** Scatterplot of patients' mean theta oscillations power versus their rest tremor score. **(B)** Scatterplot of patients' mean beta oscillations power versus their rest tremor score. **(C)** Scatterplot of patients' theta-beta proportional power ($C_{\theta\beta} = \frac{\theta - \beta}{\theta + \beta}$) versus their resting tremor score. Correlation values and their corresponding P -values (Bonferroni corrected, presented P -value = calculated P -value multiplied by five) are represented by r and P , respectively. Arrows indicate the location of the exemplary patient (Fig. 1) on the graphs.

corrected due to five comparisons of ResT with the neural data: theta, beta, $C_{\theta\beta}$, $r_{\theta\beta}$ and $c_{\theta\beta} - r_{\theta\beta}$.

The seemingly opposing relationship between STN spiking theta and beta activities with ResT led us to investigate their interplay. For if the two are strongly positively or negatively correlated, little added information can be attained from their combined activity. However, if the two activities have no or minimal correlation, their combined activity should carry significantly more information than either alone, thus potentially be a better neural correlate for ResT.

To test this hypothesis, we constructed a score aimed to scale theta–beta combined activities:

$$C_{\theta\beta} = \frac{\theta - \beta}{\theta + \beta}. \quad (1)$$

This non-linear score scales their activities between -1 and 1 ; patients with strong beta and weak theta activity will be closer to -1 , whereas patients with similar activity powers will be around 0 and patients with stronger theta than beta activity will be closer to 1 .

Comparing $C_{\theta\beta}$ with patients' UPDRS scores, we were able to better predict their ResT scores, and found a higher correlation value than theta activity alone [$r_{C_{\theta\beta}, \text{ResT}} = 0.54$, $r_{C_{\theta\beta}, \text{ResT}}^2 = 0.3$, $P < 0.001$, P -value Bonferroni corrected (multiplied by five), Fig. 3C]. Furthermore, there was no correlation between the multi-spectral model and any of the other signs, making it specific to ResT signs (Supplementary Fig. 5). Taken together, these results strengthen the hypothesis that STN spiking theta and beta activities convey information about ResT in opposite, but not redundant, ways.

Theta–beta co-activation reduces resting tremor signs

To better understand theta–beta combined activities and their relationship with ResT, we explored their interaction in the time domain. To do so, we divided patient recordings into 2-s-long segments and calculated their power spectral densities. Each segment peak theta and beta powers were found and their linear correlation (across all 2-s-long segments of each patient), $r_{\theta\beta}$, was evaluated (see examples in Fig. 4A–C). $r_{\theta\beta}$ thus provides a measure for theta–beta co-activation in a single patient. Our patients tended to have weak positive correlation values between their STN theta and beta activities (mean \pm SEM = 0.15 ± 0.016). While most patients were found to have significant positive correlations ($n = 38$), one patient exhibited a significant negative correlation, and 31 had no significant correlation between their theta and beta activities.

Since theta–beta combined activities score ($C_{\theta\beta}$) was strongly correlated with ResT, we investigated whether their co-activation ($r_{\theta\beta}$) would influence these signs. We found a significant negative correlation between theta–beta

correlation ($r_{\theta\beta}$) and ResT [$r_{r_{\theta\beta}, \text{ResT}} = -0.38$, $r_{r_{\theta\beta}, \text{ResT}}^2 = 0.15$, $P < 0.01$, P -value Bonferroni corrected (multiplied by five), Fig. 4D]. In other words, patients who tended to experience theta and beta simultaneously (i.e. theta and beta were correlated) were likely to have lower ResT scores than those who experienced them separately (i.e. theta and beta were not correlated). This result strengthens the hypothesis that the two oscillation bands convey information of ResT in opposite ways, possibly cancelling each other out.

Theta and beta proportional power and co-activation level best models resting tremor signs

Up to now, we were able to isolate two fundamental parameters that correlate with Parkinson's ResT: (i) theta–beta combined activities, represented by their proportional powers $C_{\theta,\beta}$ and (ii) theta–beta temporal relationship, represented by their temporal correlation $r_{\theta,\beta}$. Searching for an even better model for the prediction of ResT, we constructed a model incorporating the two parameters ($C_{\theta\beta}$ and $r_{\theta\beta}$).

These two parameters may be interconnected, such that one robustly influences the other. To test for this eventuality, we explored the relationship between patients' peak neural power (i.e. theta and beta powers) and their $r_{\theta,\beta}$ values. We found no significant correlation between $r_{\theta\beta}$ and the power values—differentiating the two neural parameters (Supplementary Fig. 6). This differentiation allowed us to explore their combined relationship with ResT. For if the two are independent, their joint information on ResT should be greater than their separate parts—producing a better predictive model.

We therefore incorporated theta–beta correlation, $r_{\theta\beta}$, into theta–beta combined activities score, $C_{\theta\beta}$. Incorporating $r_{\theta\beta}$ to $C_{\theta\beta}$ is especially attractive since both parameters share the same value range between -1 and 1 .

$$C_{\theta\beta} - r_{\theta\beta}. \quad (2)$$

This model was found to achieve higher correlation values with ResT than either theta or theta–beta combined activity models [$r = 0.62$, $r^2 = 0.38$, $p < 0.001$, P -value Bonferroni corrected (multiplied by five), Fig. 5].

Since it is possible to increase the prediction likelihood by adding parameters, which may lead to overfitting, we used the linear regression technique for comparison of the different models. Due to $C_{\theta\beta}$ design (i.e. the inability to separate theta and beta), we used an alternative scale that is almost identical to $C_{\theta\beta}$ ($r = 0.998$, $p < 0.001$, Supplementary Fig. 7), $\log_{10} \frac{\theta}{\beta}$. The logarithmic scale, just like $C_{\theta\beta}$, scales the two activities around zero and allows separation of the two parameters.

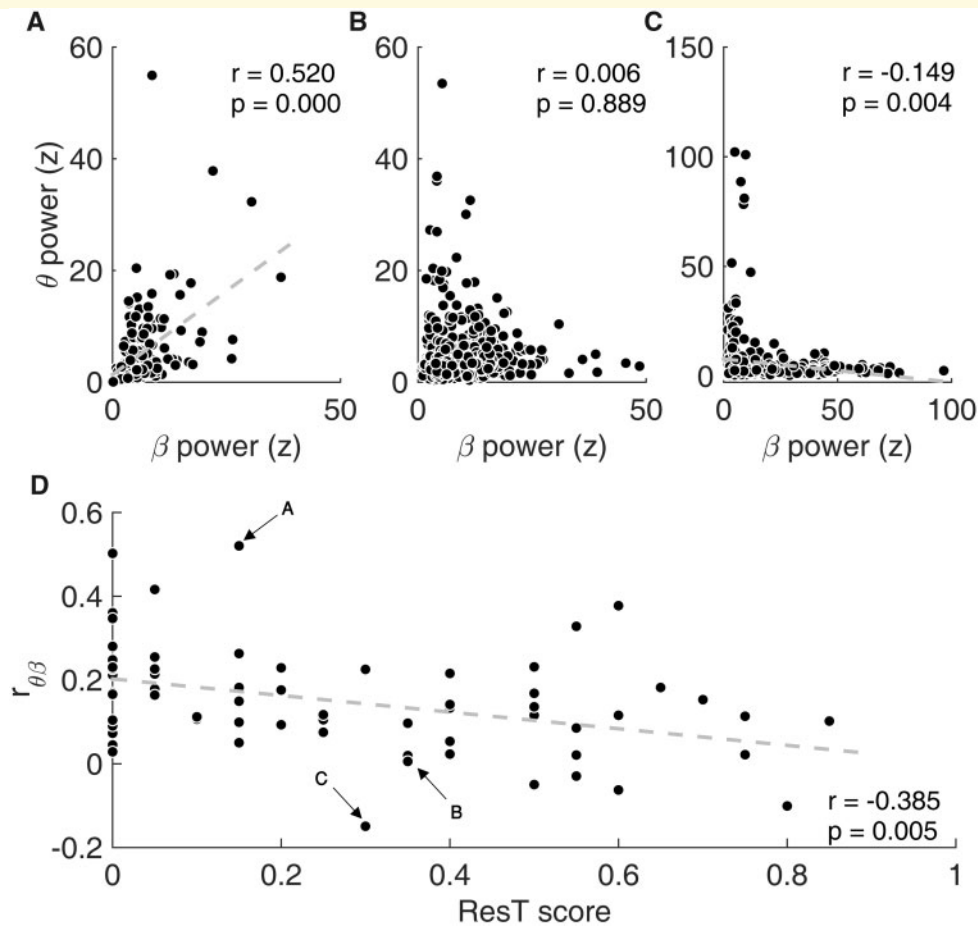


Figure 4 Theta-beta temporal correlation is negatively correlated with resting tremor signs. (A–C) Scatterplots of theta versus beta powers calculated for all non-overlapping 2-s recording segments from three different patients (each circle represents the peak theta and peak beta powers calculated from a single 2-s long segment). **(A)** A patient with a positive relationship between theta and beta, **(B)** a patient with no significant correlation between theta and beta and **(C)** a patient with a negative relationship between theta and beta. **(D)** Scatterplot of theta and beta correlation value ($r_{\theta\beta}$) versus patients' resting tremor scores. Arrows indicate the location of the exemplary patients on the graph.

$$\log_{10} \frac{\theta}{\beta} = \log_{10} \theta - \log_{10} \beta. \quad (3)$$

We therefore constructed five different predictive models for ResT (b_0 is an intersection parameter added to improve model fit; all 'b' coefficients can be positive or negative):

- (1) $b_0 + b_1 \cdot \theta$
- (2) $b_0 + b_1 \cdot \beta$
- (3) $b_0 + b_1 \cdot r_{\theta\beta}$
- (4) $b_0 + b_1 \cdot \log_{10} \theta + b_2 \cdot \log_{10} \beta$
- (5) $b_0 + b_1 \cdot \log_{10} \theta + b_2 \cdot \log_{10} \beta + b_3 \cdot r_{\theta\beta}$

and compared them using two information criteria for model selection, the Akaike and Bayesian information criteria, to find the best-fitting model (Table 2). These information criteria introduce a penalty term for the number of parameters in the model (Bayesian penalty term is larger than Akaike). Calculating the Akaike, and the

rounded Bayesian model weights (Burnham and Anderson, 2002), we found the fifth model (using theta-beta combined activities and their correlation) to be the best model with 0.96 and 0.89 probabilities, respectively (Table 2).

Since Parkinson's disease is an asymmetric disease, we tested these five predictive models using neural data from the contralateral side to the affected limb. We compared neural activity from the left side of the STN to right-sided ResT in 62 patients who had available data, and the right side of the STN to left-sided ResT in 52 patients with available data (Supplementary Fig. 8). This sided analysis provided similar results to those presented throughout this paper.

Discussion

Parkinson's disease is manifested in a variety of motor and non-motor signs and symptoms. It is increasingly

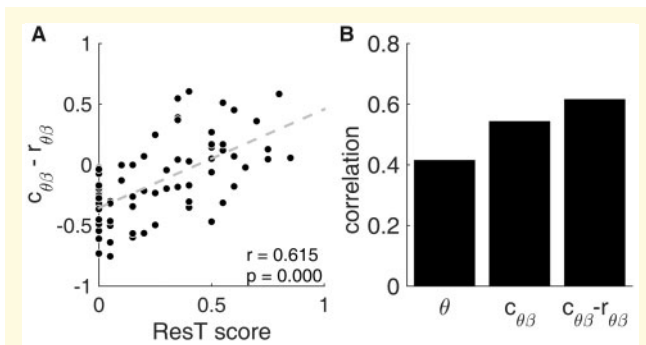


Figure 5 Theta and beta proportional power and temporal co-activation best predict resting tremor severity. (A) Scatterplot of patients' unified model ($C_{\theta\beta} - r_{\theta\beta}$) versus their ResT score. **(B)** Comparing correlation values of the different predictors (theta power, $c_{\theta\beta}$, and $c_{\theta\beta} - r_{\theta\beta}$) with ResT score. Asterisks represent significant differences ($P < 0.05$, $P < 0.01$).

evident that its heterogeneous manifestation results in a variety of clinical and pathological phenotypes. Due to this heterogeneity, many attempts to divide Parkinson's disease patients into groups have been made (Marras and Lang, 2013; Thenganatt and Jankovic, 2014). Data-driven approaches using cluster analysis have identified two motor subtypes, tremor-dominant and postural instability with gait deficits, also dominated by bradykinesia and rigidity (Thenganatt and Jankovic, 2014). This dichotomy of motor signs is further strengthened by the demonstration that tremor signs are independent of the other Parkinsonian signs (Stochl *et al.*, 2008). Unfortunately, the pathogenic and pathophysiological mechanisms underlying this heterogeneity remain unclear. Here, we were able to frame a subset of Parkinson's disease motor signs, ResT, and identify a unique and highly predictive neural correlate. These results provide further support for the dichotomy between tremor and non-tremor signs and suggest a possible separate neural mechanism.

Parkinson's resting tremor is independent of the non-tremor motor signs

Over the years, data have suggested that Parkinson's disease ResT is independent of its non-tremor signs (Stochl *et al.*, 2008; Helmich *et al.*, 2012). Here we used the UPDRS motor score to study signs relationship using the 70 patients in our dataset. The UPDRS motor score consists of 18 subcategories (excluding left and right differences) that are traditionally categorized into four groups of signs: bradykinesia/akinesia, rigidity, tremor and postural instability with gait deficits. These groups of signs are the manifestation of Parkinson's disease motor pathology and may therefore provide clues to the relationship between

pathological mechanisms. Each pair of signs may have a positive, a negative or no relationship. A positive relationship may result from (i) shared neural mechanism/s, (ii) separate mechanisms that are positively correlated or (iii) a cascade of neural mechanisms (A→B). A negative relationship could simply result from the above-mentioned mirror image.

While both positively and negatively correlated signs could hint at a joint underlying mechanism, or a relationship between them, independent signs are likely to have independent mechanisms. Here, we found ResT signs to be strongly correlated with each other while having no correlation with the non-tremor signs. Furthermore, we were not able to reject the hypothesis that ResT is independent of the other signs using Fisher's exact test of independence. These results, together with previous work (Stochl *et al.*, 2008; Helmich *et al.*, 2012), suggest that Parkinson's disease ResT is independent of the other Parkinsonian motor-signs and is probably manifested by a neural mechanism independent of the non-tremor signs.

ActT on the other hand, while having a positive correlation with ResT, was found to be significantly correlated with non-tremor signs as well. This finding suggests that ActT, unlike ResT, is not independent of the non-tremor signs. ActT's dual-positive relationship with both ResT and akinetic-rigid signs may suggest pathological complexity. ActT could therefore be the result of a separate neural mechanism positively correlated with both ResT and bradykinesia-rigidity signs, or a manifestation of several shared mechanisms of both these signs (Dirkx *et al.*, 2018; Hassan, 2018; Helmich, 2018).

Theta and beta oscillations have opposing relationships with resting tremor signs

Theta and beta activities are the two main oscillatory bands found in the STN posterior-dorso-lateral region. These two bands have been studied extensively and have generally been found to have opposing relationships with motor activity. Whereas beta oscillatory activity is reduced during movement and correlated with lack of movement (e.g. akinesia), theta was found to be elevated during movement and tremor (Steigerwald *et al.*, 2008; Contarino *et al.*, 2012; Shine *et al.*, 2014; Hirschmann *et al.*, 2017; Chen *et al.*, 2019).

In line with previous reports, when exploring the relationship between neural spiking activity and motor signs we found a significant positive correlation between STN theta and ResT. On the other hand, ActT was found to have no correlation with theta activity. ActT's positive correlation with the non-tremor group of signs and lack of correlation with STNs spiking theta activity further differentiates it from the ResT group and lends weight to

Table 2 Results of AIC and BIC analysis for five competing models

Model	Par _i	log(L _i)	AIC _i	Δ _i (AIC)	w _i (AIC)	BIC _i	Δ _i (BIC)	w _i (BIC)
θ	1	4.96	-5.93	16.46	2.55e-4	-1.43	11.97	0.002
β	1	-0.16	4.32	26.71	1.52e-6	8.81	22.21	1.34e-5
r _{θ,β}	1	3.98	-3.96	18.43	9.57e-5	0.54	13.94	8.4e-4
log ₁₀ θ, log ₁₀ β	2	10.94	-15.87	6.52	0.037	-9.13	4.27	0.1
log ₁₀ θ, log ₁₀ β and r _{θβ}	3	15.2	-22.39	0.0	0.96	-13.4	0.0	0.89

Par_i = number of estimated parameters for model i; log(L_i) = natural logarithm of the maximum likelihood for model i; Δ_i(AIC) = [AIC_i - min(AIC)]; w_i(AIC) = the rounded Akaike weights; Δ_i(BIC) = [BIC_i - min(BIC)]; w_i(BIC) = the rounded BIC model weights (or 'Schwarz weights').

the hypothesis that ActT is governed by a separate neural mechanism.

Unlike theta, there was no significant correlation between beta activity and ResT. Nonetheless, consistent with previous research (Hirschmann *et al.*, 2016, 2017; Qasim *et al.*, 2016), there seemed to be a negative trend between the two. We hypothesized that beta may have a negative effect on ResT which is masked by theta's more dominant relationship. To test this hypothesis, we created a scale of theta-beta combined activities, $C_{\theta\beta} = \frac{\theta - \beta}{\theta + \beta}$. Indeed, the relationship between $C_{\theta\beta}$ and ResT was much stronger than theta's relationship alone ($r_{C_{\theta\beta}, \text{tremor}} = 0.54$, $P < 0.001$). This result further supports our hypothesis and supports the notion of the two bands opposite relationships with ResT.

Theta-beta co-activation reduces resting tremor signs

We showed that STN spiking theta and beta activities have opposite relationships with ResT and that their combined activity is highly predictive of it. Nonetheless, the effect of theta and beta temporal interactions on these signs remains unclear. Moran *et al.* (2008) showed that while neurons firing at theta frequency are observed to oscillate more episodically and less coherently with their background activity, beta oscillating neurons oscillate coherently with their background activity for longer periods. If the two oscillating activities arise from two separate neuronal populations, this would suggest that the two populations are driven by different local functional neuronal organizations. For this purpose, we examined patients' theta-beta correlation and explored its interaction with ResT.

We found that theta-beta temporal relationship varied across patients, expressing positive, negative or zero correlation between the two bands. While most patients exhibited positive correlation between the two, patients' variation and generally weak correlation values support the hypothesis that the two bands are generated by separate neural mechanisms. For if theta and beta were generated by the same neural mechanism, or by opposing mechanisms, one would expect to see positively or negatively strong correlation values across the entire dataset.

We therefore compared these temporal interactions with patients' ResT scores and found a significant

negative correlation between these parameters ($r_{r_{\theta\beta}, \text{tremor}} = -0.38$, $P < 0.01$). Patients with low ResT scores tended to have stronger correlation values between theta and beta activities than those with high ResT scores. In other words, patients who experienced theta and beta simultaneously were more likely to have low ResT scores than those who experienced them separately.

One of the main characteristics of Parkinson's ResT is its reduction during movement of the upper limbs. One might therefore expect to see an accompanying reduction in theta activity. However, theta has been found to be elevated during movement (Shine *et al.*, 2014; Chen *et al.*, 2019), whereas beta reduced during movement and elevated during steady contractions (Sanes and Donoghue, 1993; Baker *et al.*, 1997; Kilner *et al.*, 1998; Riddle and Baker, 2006; Baker, 2007; Klostermann *et al.*, 2007; Chakarov *et al.*, 2009). Furthermore, Parkinson's disease patients experiencing freezing of gait are found to manifest increased theta-beta synchrony and elevation of both activities (Shine *et al.*, 2014; Chen *et al.*, 2019). These findings suggest that during goal-directed movement, theta increases and beta decreases, but as the movement stops, beta increases.

In addition to these results, when exploring tremor, we found strong correlation between theta-beta combined activities and patients' ResT scores (patients with higher theta than beta power tended to have higher ResT scores than patients with higher beta than theta power). Furthermore, we found a negative correlation between patients' temporal theta-beta correlation and their ResT scores. These findings, similar to the findings during movement, suggest that theta increases and beta decreases during ResT, but as the tremor stops, beta increases.

The results reported by Moran *et al.* (2008), together with ours may suggest that these two activities are generated by separate neuronal groups. Whereas a cause and effect relationship cannot be inferred by our results, we suggest that theta acts as a general 'go' signal, whereas beta acts as a 'stop' signal. Thus, during goal-directed movement, the increase in theta and decrease in beta does not create tremor, but when stationary, the hyperkinetic oscillatory state creates tremor. If so, it is possible that this reflects the system's attempt to resolve the imbalance created by one of the oscillating neuronal groups by modulating the other.

Theta and beta proportional power and temporal co-activation best predict resting tremor severity

Whereas beta was found to be uncorrelated with ResT, its non-linear subtraction from theta improved correlation values. Furthermore, patients' theta–beta correlation was negatively correlated with their ResT score. Patients who experienced theta and beta separately were more likely to have higher ResT scores and vice versa. These results are complementary, suggesting that STN spiking theta and beta activities are inherently opposite in their relationship with ResT.

To construct an improved model incorporating the two parameters ($C_{\theta\beta}$ and $r_{\theta\beta}$), we tested whether theta–beta correlation was affected by either theta or beta powers. We found no significant correlation between theta–beta correlation values and their individual powers (Supplementary Fig. 6). This result paved the way for the construction of a model consisting of the two parameters: theta–beta combined activities and theta–beta correlation. This model was found to be a significantly better predictor of ResT, achieving significantly higher correlation values than either theta or theta–beta combined activities as predictors (Fig. 5).

To better compare the different models and correct for the added parameters, we used a linear regression tool for model assessment. Comparing the five predictive models, we found that the model consisting of all three parameters (theta, beta and theta–beta correlation) best predicts ResT than all other tested models, using both the Akaike and the Bayesian information criteria with 0.96 and 0.89 probabilities, respectively (Table 2).

The selected model provides a scale for patients' theta–beta combined activities and their temporal interplay. Showing that high theta and low, temporally dissociated, beta activities are strongly correlated with ResT. Even though our model is strictly correlative, taking together this and previous works, we hypothesize that STN spiking theta activity drives ResT whereas beta acts to stop it. Thus, when the 'brake' (beta) is lifted—tremor worsens. These results shed new light on Parkinson's disease ResT pathophysiology and could hopefully be used in the future as a sign-specific biomarker.

Clinical importance and conclusions

Here we showed that multispectral STN spiking oscillatory activity is highly correlative with and specific to Parkinson's ResT. Our results lend weight to the hypothesis that theta and beta play opposite roles in ResT electrophysiology and that their combined activity better predicts ResT than either alone. We further found that their temporal correlation is a good indicator of these

signs. The more the two oscillations were out of sync (i.e. each appearing by itself), the more likely the patient had high ResT. Finally, we constructed a non-linear multispectral representation of these neural activities to create an improved biomarker for ResT.

While a cause and effect relationship has yet to be established, recent research has found supporting evidence for the hypothesis that local field potential beta activity is the effector causing some of the Parkinsonian signs (Tinkhauser *et al.*, 2017; Velisar *et al.*, 2019). If such cause and effect relationship exists for the neural correlates of tremor as well, they could be harnessed for better treatment options.

Delivering continuous, high-frequency electrical stimulation to either the STN or globus pallidus interna DBS ameliorates Parkinson's disease motor signs. The underlying mechanism of this therapy is still debated. Either way, DBS is observed to reduce oscillatory activity in target loci and the amelioration of synchronous oscillations is believed to be a major mechanism underlying the success of this technique (Tinkhauser *et al.*, 2017; Velisar *et al.*, 2019). Although highly effective, conventional DBS ignores fluctuations in patients' condition and is power hungry, shortening pacemaker longevity. It has been suggested that adaptive DBS might resolve these problems by using feedback about the state of relevant neural circuits to control stimulation parameters (Rosin *et al.*, 2011; Rosa *et al.*, 2015; Tinkhauser *et al.*, 2017). To this end, adaptive DBS trials have sought to detect changes in local field potential beta activity, primarily correlated with bradykinesia and rigidity signs. Velisar *et al.* (2019) found that the resting state beta band power is similar in bradykinesia and tremor dominant cases, making it a good candidate for adaptive DBS for both group types. Attempting to keep beta power within a desired window, they used a dual-threshold algorithm changing stimulation voltage inversely to the measured beta power. While achieving outstanding results for both groups, in one case the progressive decrease in beta band power was associated with the reappearance of ResT, as predicted by the current study. We therefore hope that in the future, the multispectral model presented here would be tested along with other models, for adaptive DBS, tailored for specific Parkinson's disease signs.

Supplementary material

Supplementary material is available at *Brain Communications* online.

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Competing interests

The authors report no competing interests.

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