

1 **A novel cortical biomarker signature predicts individual pain sensitivity**

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Key Points

42 **Question:** Can individuals be accurately classified as high or low pain sensitive based on two
43 features of cortical activity: sensorimotor peak alpha frequency (PAF) and corticomotor
44 excitability (CME)?

45 **Findings:** In a cohort study of 150 healthy participants, the performance of a logistic
46 regression model was outstanding in a training set (n=100) and excellent in a test set (n=50),
47 with the combination of slower PAF and CME depression predicting higher pain. Results
48 were reproduced across a range of methodological parameters, and inclusion of covariates did
49 not improve model performance

50 **Meaning:** A novel cortical biomarker comprised of PAF and CME can accurately distinguish
51 high and low pain sensitive individuals

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Abstract

63 **Background:** Biomarkers would greatly assist chronic pain management. The present study
64 aimed to undertake analytical validation of a sensorimotor cortical biomarker signature for
65 pain consisting of two measures: sensorimotor peak alpha frequency (PAF) and corticomotor
66 excitability (CME), using a human model of prolonged temporomandibular pain (masseter
67 intramuscular injection of nerve growth factor [NGF]).

68 **Methods:** 150 participants received an injection of NGF to the right masseter muscle on Days
69 0 and 2, inducing prolonged pain lasting up to 4 weeks. Electroencephalography (EEG) to
70 assess PAF and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) to assess CME were recorded on
71 Days 0, 2 and 5. We determined the predictive accuracy of the PAF/CME biomarker
72 signature using a nested control-test scheme: machine learning models were run on a training
73 set (n = 100), where PAF and CME were predictors and pain sensitivity was the outcome.
74 The winning classifier was assessed on a test set (n = 50) comparing the predicted pain labels
75 against the true labels.

76 **Results:** The winning classifier was logistic regression, with an outstanding area under the
77 curve (AUC=1.00). The locked model assessed on the test set had excellent performance
78 (AUC=0.88). Results were reproduced across a range of methodological parameters.
79 Moreover, inclusion of sex and pain catastrophizing as covariates did not improve model
80 performance, suggesting the model including biomarkers only was more robust. PAF and
81 CME biomarkers showed good-excellent test-retest reliability.

82 **Conclusions:** This study provides evidence for a sensorimotor cortical biomarker signature
83 for pain sensitivity. The combination of accuracy, reproducibility, and reliability, suggests the
84 PAF/CME biomarker signature has substantial potential for clinical translation.

85 Several objective pain biomarkers have been proposed, including neuroimaging
86 markers of mechanistic/structural abnormalities¹⁻³, neural oscillatory rhythms⁴ and “multi-
87 omics” metrics of micro RNA⁵, proteins⁶, lipids and metabolites⁷. Such biomarkers would
88 greatly assist decision making in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of chronic pain⁸.
89 However, attempts at establishing pain biomarkers have suffered from either insufficient
90 sample sizes to conduct full-scale analytical validation using machine learning⁸⁻¹⁰, failure to
91 use clinically relevant pain models¹¹⁻¹³ or lack of assessment of reproducibility or test-retest
92 reliability^{14,15}. These factors have hindered the clinical translatability of prospective pain
93 biomarkers.

94 Research suggests that the neural oscillatory rhythms involved in processing
95 nociceptive input, and the corticospinal signalling involved in the subsequent motor response,
96 are both critical in shaping the subjective experience of pain^{4,16}. This work has culminated to
97 the identification of a promising sensorimotor cortical biomarker signature for predicting pain
98 sensitivity involving two metrics: 1) sensorimotor peak alpha frequency (PAF), defined as the
99 dominant sensorimotor cortical oscillation in the alpha (8-12Hz) range¹⁷ and 2) corticomotor
100 excitability (CME), defined as the efficacy at which signals are relayed from primary motor
101 cortex (M1) to peripheral muscles¹⁸. Previous work has shown that slower PAF prior to pain
102 onset and reduced CME during prolonged pain (“depression”) are associated with more pain,
103 while faster PAF and increased CME (“facilitation”) are associated with less pain¹⁹⁻²³. Given
104 individuals who experience higher pain in the early stages of a prolonged pain episode (e.g.
105 post-surgery) are more likely to develop chronic pain in the future²⁴, slow PAF prior to an
106 anticipated prolonged pain episode and/or CME depression during the acute stages of pain
107 could be predictors for the transition to chronic pain.

108 This paper presents the main outcomes of the PREDICT trial, a pre-registered
109 (NCT04241562²⁵) analytical validation of the PAF/CME biomarker signature using a model

110 of prolonged myofascial temporomandibular pain (masseter intramuscular injection of nerve
111 growth factor [NGF]). Repeated NGF injections induce progressively developing prolonged
112 pain lasting up to 4 weeks^{23,26}, and has been shown to mimic chronic pain characteristics such
113 as time course (gradual development), type of pain (movement-evoked), functional
114 impairments, hyperalgesia (decreased pressure pain thresholds) and mechanism of
115 sensitization^{27,28}. This makes the NGF model a highly standardised prolonged pain model
116 with which to undertake biomarker validation.

117 The aim of the PREDICT trial was to determine whether individuals could be
118 accurately classified as high or low pain sensitive based on baseline PAF and CME
119 facilitator/depressor classification. We predicted the area under the curve (AUC) of the
120 receiver operator characteristic (ROC) curve for distinguishing high and low pain sensitive
121 individuals would be at least 70% (which represents an acceptable AUC)²⁹.

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123

Methods

124 Participants

125 The PREDICT trial enrolled 159 healthy participants (70 females, 89 males, mean age
126 25.1 ± 6.1), with 150 participants remaining after dropouts. Ethical approval was obtained
127 from the University of New South Wales (HC190206) and the University of Maryland
128 Baltimore (HP-00085371). Written, informed consent was obtained. The supplementary
129 appendix contains all additional details regarding participant characteristics and
130 methodology.

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133 **Experimental Protocol**

134 Outcomes were collected over a period of 30 days. Participants attended the
135 laboratory on Day 0, 2, and 5. Baseline questionnaire data were collected on Day 0. Pressure
136 pain thresholds, PAF and CME were measured on Day 0, 2 and 5. PAF was obtained via a 5-
137 minute eyes-closed resting-state EEG recording from 63 electrodes. Sensorimotor PAF was
138 computed by identifying the component in the signal (transformed by independent
139 component analysis) that had a clear alpha peak (8-12Hz) upon frequency decomposition and
140 a scalp topography suggestive of a sensorimotor source. CME was obtained using
141 transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) mapping; single pulses of TMS delivered to the left
142 primary motor cortex (M1), and motor evoked potentials (MEPs) recorded from the right
143 masseter muscle using electromyography (EMG) electrodes. TMS was delivered at each site
144 on a 1cm-spaced grid superimposed over the scalp, and a map of the corticomotor
145 representation of the masseter muscle was generated. Corticomotor excitability was indexed
146 as map volume, which is calculated by summing MEP amplitudes from all “active sites” on
147 the grid. NGF was injected into the right masseter muscle at the end of the Day 0 and 2
148 laboratory sessions. Electronic pain diaries were collected from Days 1 to 30 at 10am and
149 7pm each day, where participant rated their pain (0-10) during various activities. Pain upon
150 functional jaw movement is a key criterion for the diagnosis of TMD³⁰ and pain during
151 chewing and yawning are higher compared to other activities after an NGF injection to the
152 masseter muscle^{28,31}. As such, the primary outcomes were pain upon chewing and yawning.
153 The protocol and methodology are shown in Figure 1A and 1B.

154 **Analytical Validation Plan**

155 **Division of the Data.** Analysis was conducted in R, MATLAB and Python, with code
156 publicly available https://github.com/DrNahianC/PREDICT_Scripts. Figure 1C details the

157 analysis plan. We adopted a nested-control-testing scheme by partitioning 150 participants
158 into the first 100 (training set) and second 50 (test set) individuals to participate in the study.

159 **Growth Mixture Modelling.** We used growth mixture modelling (GMM) in R³²⁻³⁴ to
160 form two classes: high and low pain sensitive. For this categorization, we used the sum of
161 pain upon chewing and yawning data, and pain data from Days 1-7, as this was the timeframe
162 when pain was most prominent (eFigure 3). As such, participants would more reliably fall
163 into high and low pain sensitive classes during this timeframe. The first and last 40
164 participants (80 in total) in the training set, based on the ordering of probabilities of the pain
165 intensity trajectory belonging to one of the classes, were labelled as high and low pain
166 sensitive. The trained GMM model, once established, was locked and utilized to label the test
167 set. Consequently 38 out of 50 test set participants were labelled, with a different proportion
168 of high and low pain sensitive (24 high and 14 low pain) compared to the training set since
169 the classifications were based on the probability thresholds established in the training set.
170 These labels were recorded for subsequent comparison with the predicted labels produced by
171 the trained machine learning model.

172 **Machine Learning Model Selection and Fine Tuning.** We utilized five machine
173 learning models on the labelled training set —logistic regression, random forest, gradient
174 boosting, support vector machine, and neural network. The dependent variable was pain
175 sensitivity label (high/low) identified from the GMM and independent variables were
176 sensorimotor PAF and Δ CME: the latter was typified as facilitator and depressor, depending
177 on whether they showed an increase or decrease in map volume on Day 5 relative to Day 0,
178 respectively. For each model, we identified optimized parameters through 5-fold cross-
179 validation: we randomly divided the 80 participants into an internal training set of 64
180 participants (consisting of four equal folds of 16) and a validation set of 16. The optimized
181 models in the internal training set were then employed to predict labels in the validation set to

182 facilitate model selection. The model with the best performance (area under the curve) on the
183 validation set was then locked in.

184 **Test Set Prediction.** The locked machine learning model was assessed on the test set.
185 The participant IDs in this set did not coincide with those in the pain diary data, thereby
186 preserving the double-blind nature of the analysis. By using the ground-truth labels
187 (shuffled), predicted labels (unshuffled), and the shuffling order for the test set, we were able
188 to evaluate the model's performance by comparing the reordered predicted labels against the
189 ground-truth labels established by the GMM. Performance was assessed via receiver
190 operating characteristic (ROC) area under the curve (AUC), with 95% confidence intervals
191 reported. AUC values between 0.7-0.8, 0.8-0.9 and 0.9-1 were considered “acceptable”,
192 “excellent”, and “outstanding” respectively²⁹.

193

194 **Results**

195 **PAF/CME demonstrated good-excellent test-retest reliability**

196 PAF and Δ CME showed good to excellent test-retest reliability across sessions
197 (eFigures 5 and 7).

198 **Outstanding performance on the training validation set**

199 Figure 2A shows the pain scores for participants in the training and test set classified
200 as high and low pain sensitive. Figure 2B (upper) shows the performances of the models
201 across the internal training and validation sets. Logistic regression was the winning classifier
202 based on its outstanding performance (AUC=1.00[1.00-1.00]) when applied to the validation
203 set (Figure 2B lower), with slower PAF and CME depression predicting higher pain with
204 regression coefficients of -1.25 and -1.27 for PAF and CME respectively.

205 **Excellent performance on the test set**

206 When the locked logistic regression model was applied to the test set, performance
207 (Figure 2C upper) was excellent (AUC=0.88[0.78-0.99]). The optimal probability threshold
208 for being classified as high pain sensitive was 0.40, with an associated sensitivity of 0.875
209 and specificity of 0.79. Applying this 0.40 probability threshold to our data, to be labelled as
210 high pain sensitive, a facilitator would need a PAF<9.56, and a depressor would need a
211 PAF<10.57. Figure 2C (lower) shows the differences in pain scores between participants
212 predicted to have high or low pain. Visually one can observe slower PAF in those predicted
213 to have high vs. low pain sensitivity (Figure 2D), This was statistically significant according
214 to a two-sample t-test ($t(48)=5.8$, $p<.001$). Moreover, one can observe a decrease in CME
215 within the masseter motor maps in those predicted to have high pain (Figure 2E), whereas
216 those predicted to have low pain exhibited an increase in CME. The differences in Δ CME
217 between these groups was statistically significant ($t(48)=2.81$, $p=.007$).

218 **A benefit for a *combined* signature**

219 We reran the models to determine whether the combined PAF/CME signature out-
220 performed each measure individually (eFigure 10). The performance of the PAF-only logistic
221 regression model on the training validation and test set were respectively excellent
222 (AUC=0.95[0.84-1.00]) and outstanding (AUC=0.83[0.70-0.96]). The performance of the
223 CME-only logistic regression model for the training validation and test set were respectively
224 excellent (AUC=0.88[0.69-1.00]) and acceptable (AUC=0.75[0.60-0.91]).

225 **Inclusion of covariates did not improve model performance**

226 We evaluated the performance of the biomarker combined with covariates. As there
227 were many variables, we applied feature selection, i.e. filtering features by inspecting p-
228 values when associating predictors and labels, and using parameter tuning to optimize the

229 coefficients associated with the filtered features. Five features were subsequently selected and
230 optimized – Sensorimotor PAF, CME, Sex, Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS) Total and PCS
231 Helplessness. The associations between labels and biomarkers/covariates in the training vs.
232 test set, and performance of the models are shown in Figure 3A and 3B. When including
233 these five features, the performance of the logistic regression model (regression coefficients
234 of -0.86, -0.69, 0.64, 0.02 and 0.06 for PAF, CME, Sex, PCS Total and PCS Helplessness
235 respectively) was outstanding (AUC=1.00[1.00-1.00]) and excellent (AUC=0.81[0.67-0.95])
236 for the training validation and test set were respectively. Thus, the model with biomarkers
237 only outperformed the model including covariates.

238 **Results were reproducible across methodological choices**

239 To determine whether our results were robust across different methodological
240 choices, we repeated the analysis using different PAF calculation methods, including
241 component level data (with the sensorimotor component chosen manually or using an
242 automated script) vs. sensor level data (with a sensorimotor region of interest), using different
243 frequency windows (8-12Hz vs. 9-11Hz) and using different CME calculation methods (map
244 volume vs. map area). We found that, regardless of the choices, logistic regression was the
245 best or equal-best performing model when applied to the training-validation set (Figure 3C),
246 with AUCs varying from acceptable (AUC=0.77) to outstanding (AUC=1.00). When the
247 locked models were applied to the test set, performance varied from acceptable (AUC=0.73)
248 to excellent (AUC=0.88) (Figure 3D). Lastly, excellent performance was demonstrated when
249 the data was analysed two other ways (eFigure 11 and 12): where GMM pain labels were
250 established using the whole 30 days rather than the first 7 days (training validation
251 AUC=0.84[0.64-1], test AUC =0.89[0.79-0.99]), and when missing pain diary data was not
252 imputed (training validation AUC=0.81[0.6-1], test AUC=0.89[0.79-0.99]).

253

Discussion

254 A full-scale analytical validation of the PAF and CME biomarker signature was
255 conducted using a prolonged pain model. In an initial training set (n=100), we found that a
256 logistic regression was the optimal classifier based on its outstanding performance
257 (AUC=100%), with slower PAF and CME depression predicting higher pain. When this
258 model was applied to an independent test set, the AUC was excellent (AUC=88%).
259 PAF/CME showed good-excellent test-retest reliability, and results were reproduced across a
260 range of methodological parameters. Inclusion of covariates did not improve model
261 performance, suggesting the model including biomarkers only was more robust. Overall, the
262 combination of sample size, pain model validity, and biomarker accuracy, reproducibility and
263 reliability suggest the PAF/CME biomarker signature has substantial potential for clinical
264 translation.

265 Our results suggest that individuals who have slow PAF prior to an anticipated
266 prolonged pain episode and show corticomotor depression during a prolonged pain episode,
267 are more likely to experience higher pain. Model performance was higher combining the two,
268 suggesting consideration of both ascending sensory and descending motor pain processing
269 mechanisms provides more information regarding pain sensitivity. Note that our study used a
270 cohort of healthy participants with strict inclusion/exclusion criteria and an experimental pain
271 model. While this may limit generalizability to clinical populations, the use of a standardized
272 sample/design is a requirement of pre-clinical analytical validation, and an essential first step
273 in the discovery pipeline toward a clinical biomarker signature. Moreover, there is already
274 evidence that the proposed biomarker is generalizable to clinical contexts. A recent study
275 showed that individuals with slower PAF experienced more pain following a thoracotomy²⁰.
276 Furthermore, individuals with lower CME during the acute stages of low back pain were
277 more likely to develop chronic pain at 6-months follow-up³⁵. This suggests PAF and CME

278 shows promise in being used in pre-operative and/or post-operative/post-injury contexts to
279 classify high or low pain sensitive individuals. Given that higher acute pain predicts the
280 development of chronic pain²⁴ PAF and CME could potentially be used as susceptibility
281 biomarkers for the transition from acute to chronic pain.

282 There are several aspects of our study which stand out. The first is sample size: with
283 recent advancements in machine learning, it has become possible to conduct analytical
284 validation of pain biomarkers. However, deep learning requires a large amount of labelled
285 samples to conduct rigorous training on validation and test sets⁸. Unfortunately, many pain
286 susceptibility biomarker studies have not been sufficiently sampled to adopt such
287 approaches^{9,10}, and the ones that have used machine learning failed to reach the sample sizes
288 similar to that of the present study^{1,2}.

289 Another strength of our findings is reproducibility. Previous work has shown similar
290 associations between slower PAF and higher upper limb pain, post-operative thoracic pain
291 and chronic pain in various body regions^{17,19,20} as well as CME depression and higher upper
292 limb pain, chronic patellofemoral pain and development of chronic low back pain^{22,23,36,37}.
293 The present study replicated these results in a model of jaw pain, suggesting the biomarker
294 signature may be generalizable to pain more broadly. Note that some studies have not shown
295 a negative relationship between PAF and pain sensitivity^{38,39} or a positive relationship
296 between CME depression and pain sensitivity³¹. However, these studies were not sufficiently
297 sampled to conduct analytical validation of the kind presented in this study. Nonetheless, the
298 mixed findings could also arise from differences in methodological choices in the estimation
299 of PAF e.g. frequency windows³⁹ and use of sensor vs. component space data⁴⁰ and
300 estimation of CME e.g. map volume²² vs. area³¹. For this reason, we repeated the main
301 analysis using different methodological choices and found at least acceptable AUCs,
302 supporting the reproducibility of our results.

303 The PAF/CME measures demonstrated good-excellent reliability. Reliability is a
304 desirable characteristic which assists in the widespread application of pain biomarkers⁸. We
305 found that participants exhibit stable PAF across days despite the presence of pain, and even
306 when considering different methodological factors that may influence the reliability such as
307 pre-processing pipeline, recording length and frequency window¹⁴. Indeed, reliable PAF was
308 found with a recording length as short as 2 minutes and minimal data pre-processing. We also
309 showed that those who show CME depression on Day 2 are also likely to show CME
310 depression on Day 5 (and vice versa for those who show CME facilitation). This was shown
311 even when an automated method of determining MEP amplitude on each trial was applied.
312 Thus, our work not only shows that PAF and CME can predict pain, but the relative ease with
313 which reliable PAF/CME data can be obtained is promising for subsequent clinical
314 translation.

315 Another strength of this study is our pain model. While other pain biomarker studies
316 have shown promising results, these studies were restricted to pain models utilizing transient
317 painful stimuli lasting seconds to minutes¹¹⁻¹³. The brief nature of the painful stimuli
318 questions the external validity of these findings and limits generalizability to clinical
319 populations. In contrast, the present study used a prolonged pain model lasting weeks.
320 Several other studies have shown that injections of NGF to the neck, elbow or masseter
321 muscles can mimic symptoms of clinical neck pain⁴¹, chronic lateral epicondylalgia²⁷ and
322 TMD²⁸ respectively. Thus, the observed relationships between PAF/CME and pain in the
323 present study show promise in terms of clinical applicability.

324 Lastly, the PAF/CME biomarker demonstrated high performance. A previous study
325 found that connectivity between medial prefrontal cortex and nucleus accumbens in 39 sub-
326 acute low back pain patients (pain duration 6-12 weeks) could predict future pain persistence
327 at ~7, 29 and 54 weeks, with AUCs of 67-83%¹. Another study on 24 sub-acute low back

328 pain patients showed that white matter fractional anisotropy measures in the superior
329 longitudinal fasciculus and internal capsule predicted pain persistence over the next year,
330 with an AUC of 81%². Though the present did not directly assess the transition to chronic
331 pain, our AUCs of 100% (validation set) and 88% (test set) appear comparatively high. We
332 therefore encourage future clinical studies to determine whether PAF/CME can predict the
333 transition from acute to chronic pain.

334 **Conclusions**

335 A novel biomarker signature comprised of PAF and CME accurately and reliably
336 distinguishes high and low pain sensitive individuals during prolonged jaw pain with an
337 excellent AUC of 88% in an independent test set. No other pain biomarker study has shown
338 this combination of biomarker accuracy, reproducibility, reliability and pain model validity,
339 suggesting high potential for clinical translation.

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344 The authors have no conflicts to declare. The corresponding author had full access to all the
345 data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and accuracy of the data
346 analysis. The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding
347 author upon reasonable request.

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Figure Captions

480 **Figure 1. Study methodology, including study design, data collection procedures and**
481 **analysis plan.** (A) Experimental protocol showing timeline of data collection procedures. On
482 Day 0, we measured peak alpha frequency (PAF) and corticomotor excitability (CME). At
483 the end of the session, an injection of nerve growth factor (NGF) was administered to the
484 right masseter muscle. On Day 2, PAF and CME were measured, followed by a second NGF
485 injection. On Day 5, PAF and CME were measured. From Days 1-30, electronic diaries
486 measuring jaw pain were sent to participants at 10AM and 7PM each day. (B) Details of the
487 methodology. Sensorimotor PAF was measured using a 5 minutes eyes closed resting state
488 EEG recording. Sensorimotor PAF was computed by identifying the component in the signal
489 (transformed by independent component analysis) that had a clear alpha peak in the 8–12 Hz
490 range upon frequency decomposition and a scalp topography suggestive of a source
491 predominately over the sensorimotor cortex. TMS mapping was conducted by stimulating the
492 scalp area over left M1 to obtain a map of the representation of the right masseter muscle.
493 The map consists of the motor-evoked potential (MEP) amplitude at each stimulated location,
494 with CME corresponding to the map volume (sum of all MEPs from active sites). (C) Details
495 of the analysis plan. We adopted a nested-control-test scheme by partitioning the 150 subjects
496 into a training set consisting of 100 subjects and an independent test set of 50 subjects. We
497 labelled a subset of participants in the training ($n = 80$) and test set ($n = 38$) as high or low
498 pain sensitive using growth mixture modelling (GMM) to establish “ground-truth” labels. We
499 then ran various machine learning models on the labelled training set (with PAF/CME as
500 predictors, and pain severity labels as outcome), and determined optimized parameters
501 through 5-fold cross-validation i.e. randomly dividing the 80 subjects into an internal training
502 set of 64 subjects (with 4 equal folds of 16) and a validation set of 16. The optimized models
503 in the internal training set were employed to predict labels in the validation set to facilitate
504 model selection. The model with the best performance on the validation set was then locked
505 in, and applied to the labelled test set, comparing the predicted labels of high/low pain
506 sensitive with the ground-truth labels of high/low pain sensitive.

507 **Figure 2. Performance of the combined PAF and CME biomarker on training and test**
508 **set.** (A) Results of the growth mixture modelling which categorized 80 participants in the
509 training set (left) and 38 participants in the test (right) as high or low pain sensitive. Data
510 shows mean pain score (chew + yawn pain rating) for each timepoint, while the shaded area
511 shows 95% confidence intervals. (B) The upper panel shows performances (AUC [95%
512 confidence intervals]) of various machine learning models for the internal training set and
513 validation set. Logistic regression (LR) was chosen as the optimal classifier based on
514 outstanding AUC of 100% as shown in the lower panel. (C) The upper panel shows the
515 performance of the locked logistic regression model when applied to the test set, which was
516 in the excellent range (AUC of 88%). The lower panel shows the pain trajectories (mean
517 chew + yawn pain and 95% confidence intervals) of participants predicted to have high or
518 low pain sensitivity based on the locked logistic regression model. (D) Individual and mean
519 z-transformed spectral plots and topography of the sensorimotor alpha component on Day 0
520 for participants predicted to have high or pain sensitivity based on the locked logistic
521 regression model. (E) The mean motor cortex maps on Day 0 and Day 5 showing normalized
522 motor evoked potential (MEP) amplitude (expressed as a proportion of the maximal MEP

523 amplitude) for participants predicted to have high or low pain sensitivity based on the locked
524 logistic regression model.

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526 **Figure 3. Performance of the combined PAF and CME biomarker on training and test**
527 **set when including covariates, and across PAF/CME calculation methods. (A)**

528 Visualisation of biomarkers and covariates for the training and test sets across high (red) and
529 low (blue) pain labels identified from the GMM. Data on PAF, PCS total and PCS
530 helplessness are plotted as boxplots, while data on CME and Sex are plotted according to
531 facilitator: depressor (Fac: dep) and female: male (fem: mal) split respectively, including odd
532 ratios. A lower odds ratio means a lower probability of high pain sensitive individuals
533 belonging to the facilitator or female categories. For PAF and CME, low pain was associated
534 with fast PAF and CME facilitation for both training and test sets. In contrast, the relationship
535 between covariates and labels were in the opposite direction for the training and test set,
536 suggesting the relationship between biomarkers and labels was consistent. **(B)** The left panel
537 shows the performance of the locked logistic regression model on the test set when including
538 covariates in the model. The right panel shows pain trajectories (mean chew + yawn score
539 and 95% confidence intervals) of participants predicted to have high or low pain sensitivity
540 based on the locked logistic regression model including covariates. **(C)** The performance of
541 each machine learning model (AUC [95% confidence intervals]) on the training validation set
542 across different PAF/CME calculation methods. This includes the sensorimotor component
543 chosen manually after an independent component analysis, component identified using an
544 automated script after an independent component analysis, or using a sensorimotor region of
545 interest (ROI, mean of Cz, C3 and C4) in electrode space, to calculate PAF. We also looked
546 at different frequency windows for computing PAF (8-12Hz vs. 9-11Hz) or CME calculated
547 using map area or map volume. **(D)** The performance of the locked logistic regression model
548 (AUC [95% confidence intervals]) when applied to the test set, across different PAF/CME
549 calculation methods.

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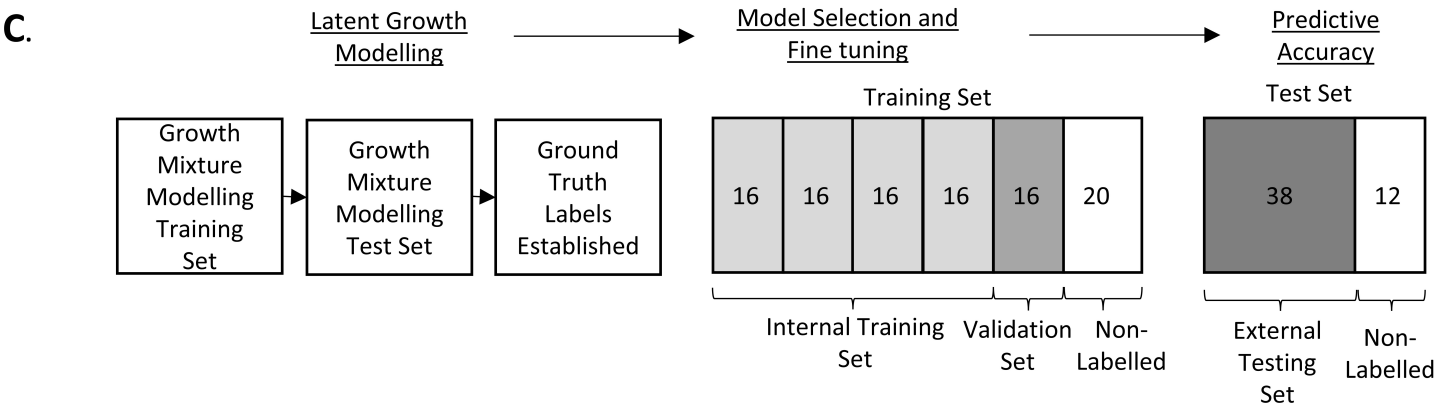
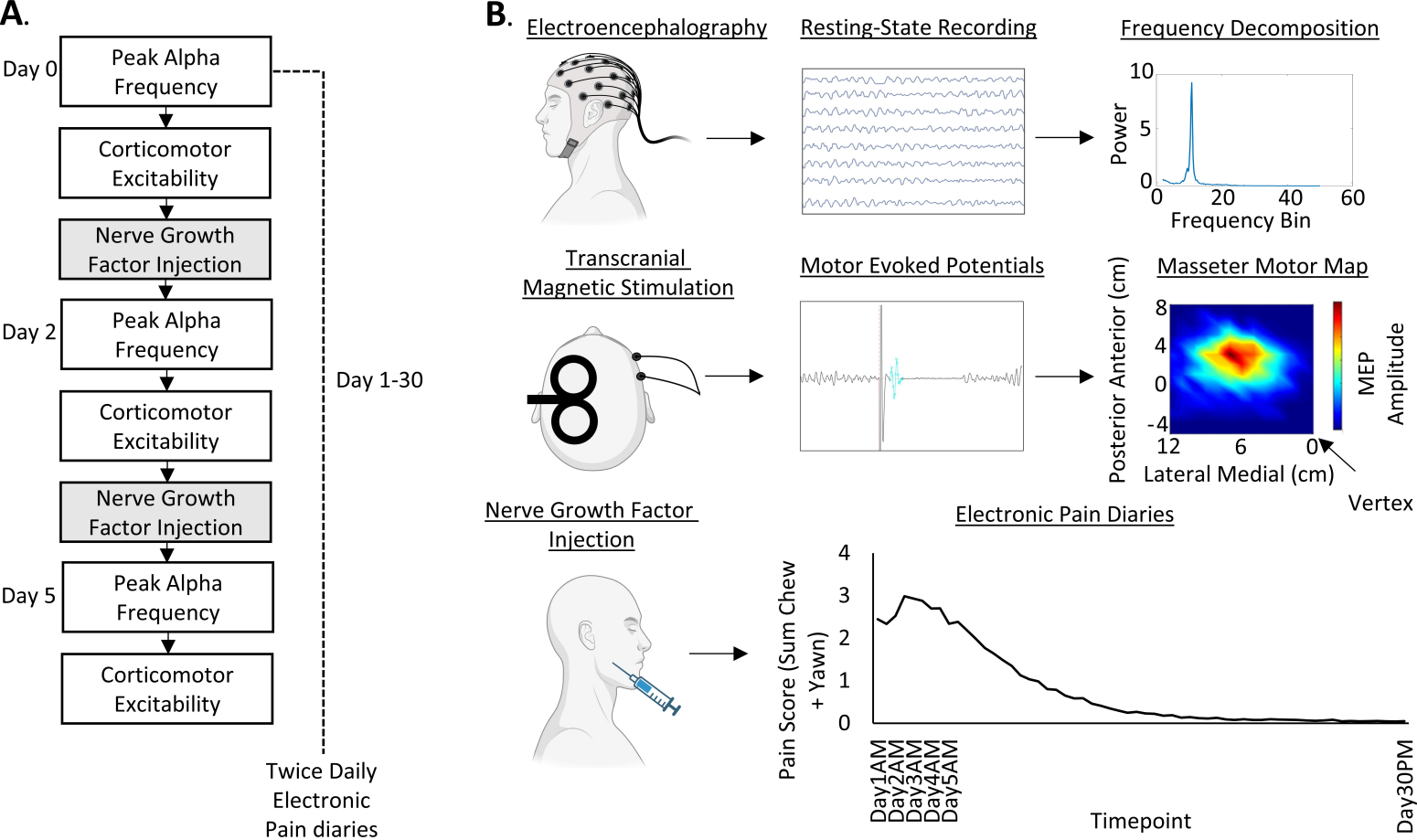
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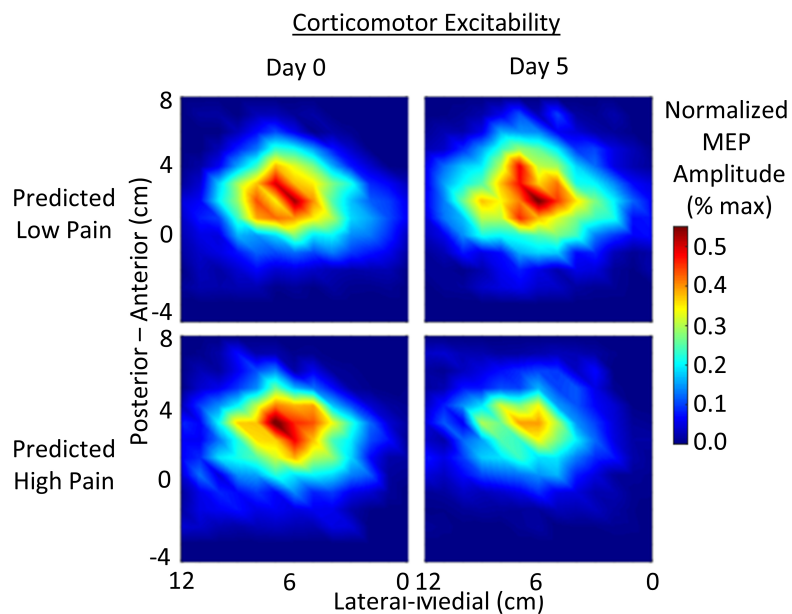
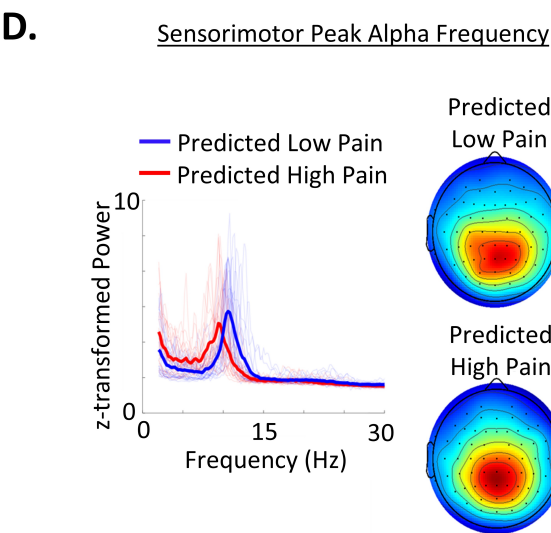
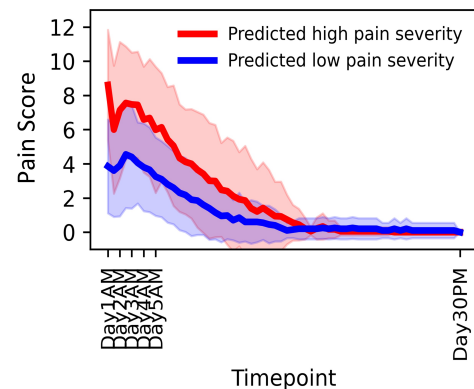
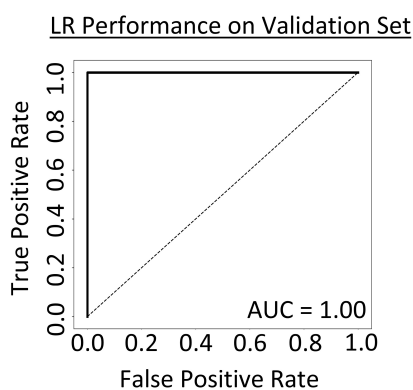
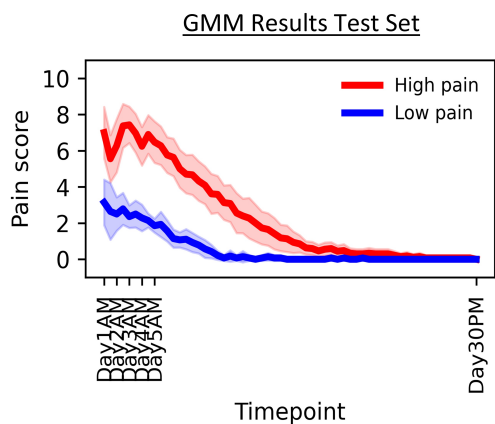
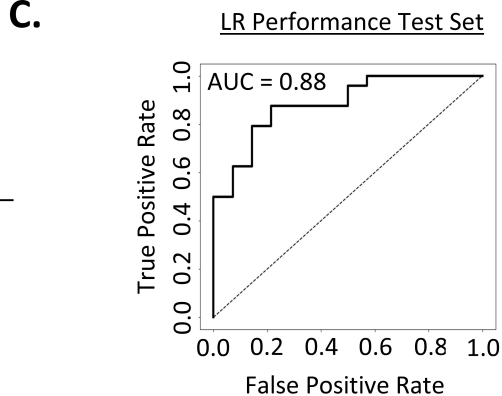
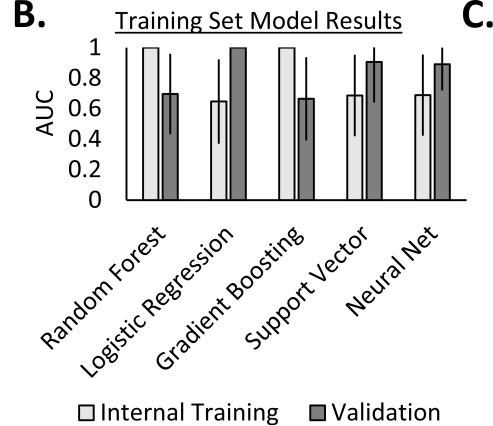
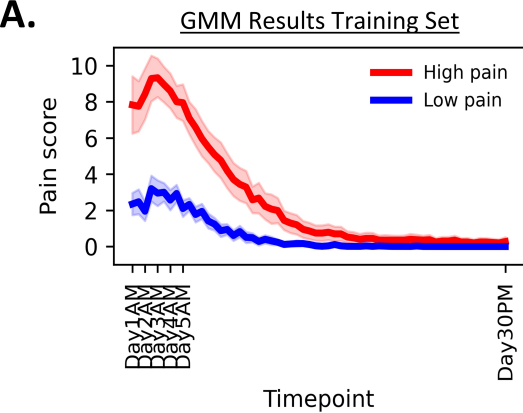
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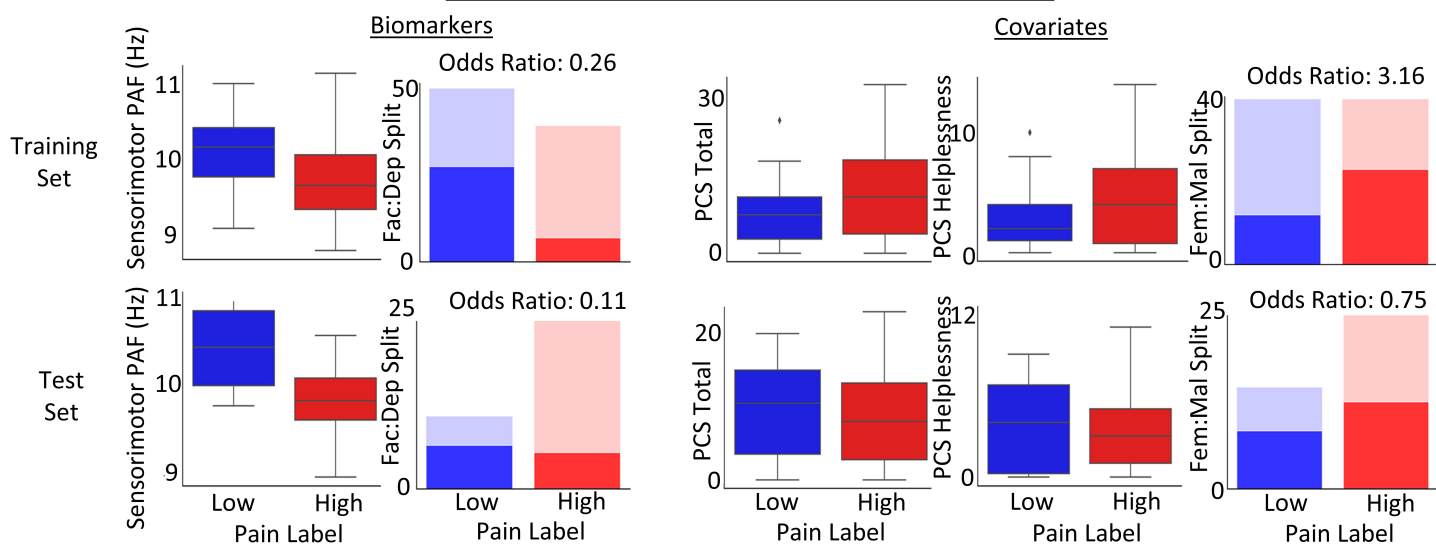
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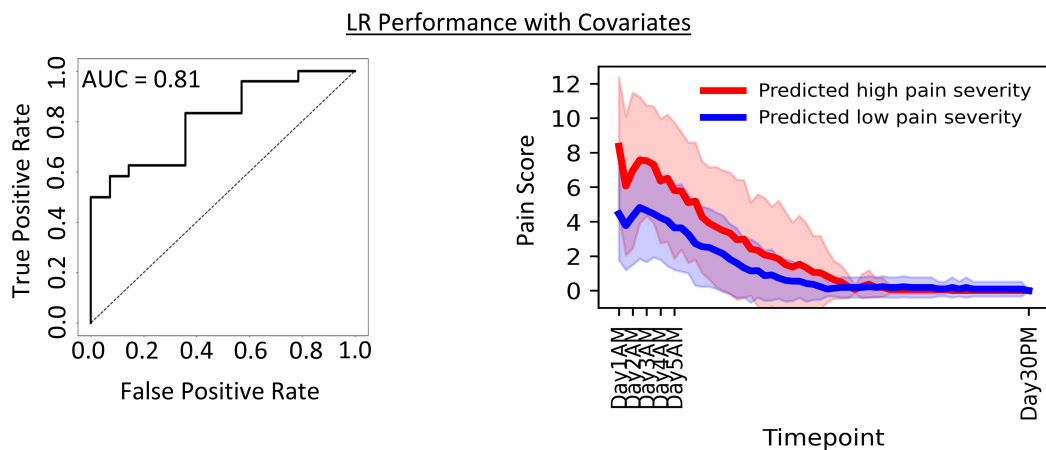




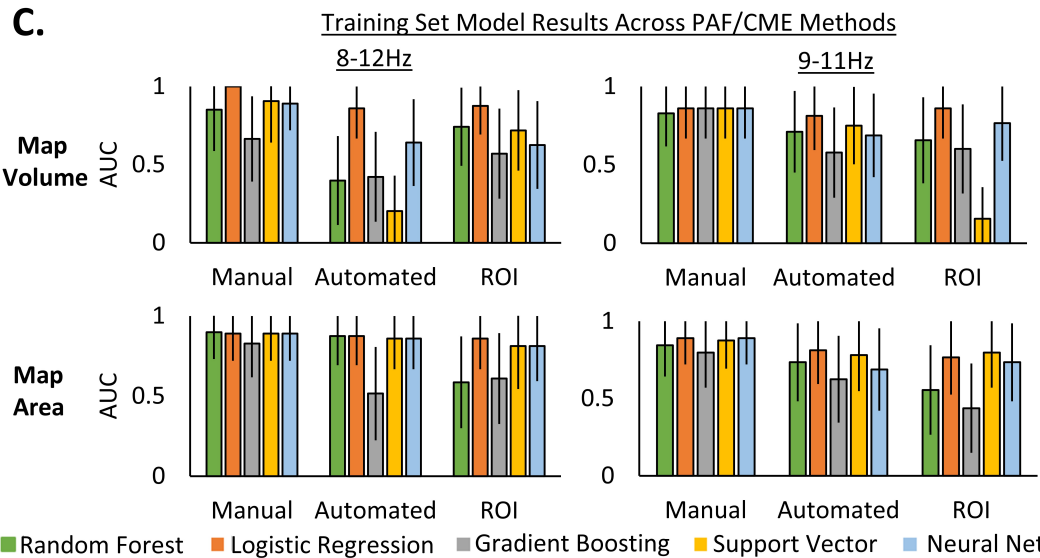
Relationship between Biomarkers/Covariates and Labels



B.



C.



D.

