Title: Human deep sleep facilitates faster cerebrospinal fluid dynamics linked to brain oscillations

for sleep homeostasis and memory

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Abstract (up to 150 words):

While cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) dynamics during sleep have been implicated in metabolic waste

reduction in animals, how CSF dynamics are driven in the human brain remains elusive. Here, by

leveraging a simultaneous sparse-fMRI and polysomnography method designed specifically for

acquiring deep stable sleep data, we present the first evidence of deep sleep-specific faster CSF

dynamics in healthy young human participants. Slow waves and sleep spindles during slow-wave

sleep and rapid eye movements and sawtooth waves during rapid eye movement (REM) sleep

induce frequent low-amplitude CSF fluctuations, contributing to faster CSF dynamics during deep

sleep. In contrast, arousal-related brain activities during light sleep produced infrequent large CSF

changes. Furthermore, these brain oscillations during light and deep sleep recruited essentially

different brain networks, with deep sleep emphasizing memory and homeostatic circuits. Thus,

human deep sleep has a unique way of enabling faster CSF dynamics that are distinctive from

arousal mechanisms.

(148 / 150 words)

Main Text:

Sleep is undeniably crucial for the maintenance of healthy brain functions[1–3]. Poor sleep results in a wide variety of health problems, including neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease[3,4]. However, how sleep maintains human brain functions has remained one of the biggest mysteries in neuroscience, medicine, and daily life.

Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) dynamics during sleep have recently been proposed as one of the essential mechanisms for supporting brain functions. Research on animal models has suggested that brain metabolite waste is reduced specifically during sleep[5]. This process relies on CSF dynamics to wash out metabolic waste from the brain[6,7]. In rodents, CSF dynamics reach maximum levels during deep nonrapid-eye-movement (NREM) sleep or slow-wave sleep[5]. Empirical measurements of CSF dynamics during human sleep are scarce, but CSF dynamics during sleep may also play a similar role in humans. One study has shown that CSF tracer molecules are spread out and then cleared from the brain during sleep, whereas sleep deprivation impairs these processes[6]. Furthermore, sleep quality was also correlated with the amount of clearance[8].

The current dominant view of CSF regulation during human sleep is the ascending arousal model for CSF dynamics[9,10]. By measuring functional MRI (fMRI) during light NREM sleep, which comprises the N1 and N2 sleep stages, the slow frequency component (~0.05 Hz) in the CSF signals was found to be stronger during sleep than during wakefulness[9–11]. This slow frequency component is likely to be produced by K-complexes during light NREM sleep[9], which are known to be associated with arousal[12–15]. However, the type of sleep that has a strong reciprocal relationship with brain health is deep stable sleep, which includes slow-wave sleep and rapid eye movement (REM) sleep. Aging and sleep disorders increase arousal, resulting in decreased deep sleep[16,17]. Along with evidence showing the roles of slow-wave sleep and REM sleep in memory[18–

[23], deep sleep stages should play a critical role in both maintaining and facilitating brain functions.

Moreover, the ascending arousal model for CSF dynamics lacks an explanation as to how arousal

can solely regulate the CSF flow when arousal mechanisms are largely suppressed during deep

sleep[24].

Alternatively, we propose that sleep brain oscillations and events during deep sleep[25–27]

provide a plausible mechanism for CSF flow modulations[28]. Since brain oscillations and events,

including slow waves and sleep spindles, continuously occur during deep sleep[29], if these brain

events indeed modulate the fluid flow, the CSF signals should oscillate much faster than those

during wakefulness or light sleep. These rationales led to our hypothesis that human deep sleep

plays a major and specific role in accelerating CSF dynamics, which is tightly linked to sleep brain

oscillations and events. We further hypothesize that deep sleep mechanisms are distinct from

arousal mechanisms.

Importantly, no study thus far has succeeded in measuring CSF signals during slow-wave

sleep or rapid-eye movement (REM) sleep in humans. This is because measuring brain activity

during deep human sleep inside an MRI scanner has been extremely challenging due to the large,

continuous acoustic noise produced during MRI scans. The acoustic noise in MRI scans is known

to cause frequent arousals and prolonged wakefulness, inhibiting participants from reaching deeper

sleep even after sleep deprivation[10,30,31]. This issue has prevented previous research from

measuring CSF dynamics during slow-wave sleep or REM sleep in humans.

The present study overcame this technical difficulty and successfully measured fMRI

signals from the lateral ventricles (CSF signals) during slow-wave sleep and REM sleep in healthy

young participants. We developed a minimally disturbing cutting-edge fMRI sequence measured

simultaneously with polysomnography (PSG), in which a quiet period was inserted between MRI

image acquisitions, allowing participants to sleep deeper. We report that CSF signals fluctuate

significantly faster during slow-wave sleep and REM sleep than during light sleep, facilitated by

abundant sleep brain oscillations and events, including slow waves, sleep spindles, rapid eye

movements, and sawtooth waves. We demonstrate for the first time that sleep brain oscillations

and neural events during deep stable sleep can modulate CSF dynamics distinct from the arousal

mechanisms in human participants, indicating a fundamental property of deep sleep for the

maintenance of brain functions. The present study therefore offers a clue as to why deep and stable

sleep matters for the human brain.

Results

Leveraging simultaneous sparse fMRI and polysomnography (PSG) measurements

designed for measuring stable sleep data (**Fig. 1a**; see ***Experimental design*** and ***MRI acquisition***

in **Methods**), we acquired a total of 50 sleep datasets from twenty-five young healthy participants

(mean 23.6 ± 4.8 years old, 15 female). This sparse fMRI protocol was inspired by previous studies

that successfully acquired slow-wave sleep and REM sleep data using magnetic resonance

spectroscopy (MRS), where the duration of MRI signal acquisition was approximately 1 s,

separated by quiet periods[23,32]. In contrast to regular fMRI sequences, which produce continuous

sharp acoustic noise that is known to prevent participants from sleeping deeply, the current sparse

fMRI sequence has a 2.1 s quiet period between MRI image acquisitions (=900 ms), emulating the

MRS sequence. Using this protocol, the present study succeeded in collecting deep sleep data. The

average sleep duration was 69.6 ± 2.9 min (*mean $\pm$ SE*), including 18–30 sessions with slow-wave

sleep and/or REM sleep data (**Table 1**). The fMRI data were denoised using cardiac and respiration

signals[33,34]. The CSF signals were extracted from each participant's lateral ventricles (**Fig. 1b &**

c). Any epochs containing arousals or motion artifacts were removed from further analyses.

Slow-wave sleep and REM sleep induce faster CSF components

Slow-wave sleep is characterized by ample slow waves and sleep spindles, whereas REM

sleep involves rapid eye movements and sawtooth waves[29,35]. If CSF signals are modulated by

brain oscillations and neural events independent of arousal, CSF signals would fluctuate *faster*

during slow-wave sleep than during light sleep, considering the abundance of these oscillations

during deep sleep. To specifically examine the frequency characteristics of the CSF dynamics, we

examined the periodic oscillation components of CSF signals across different sleep depths,

identifying three different frequency components: slow (< 0.06 Hz), fast (0.06–0.12 Hz) and very

fast (>0.12 Hz) components (see ***Power spectrum analysis of fMRI data*** in **Methods**).

Our results revealed that the fast component power in the CSF signals was significantly

greater during slow-wave sleep than during wakefulness or light NREM sleep (**Fig. 1d & e**, blue;

Supplementary Fig. S1b & d). In contrast, the slow component power in the CSF signals was

significantly greater during light NREM sleep than during wakefulness or slow-wave sleep (**Fig.**

1d & e, green; **Supplementary Fig. S1a & d**). CSF dynamics during REM sleep were

characterized by a mixture of slow and very fast components (**Fig. 1d & e**, red; **Supplementary**

Fig. S1e & f). Similar to light NREM sleep, the slow component power was significantly greater

during REM sleep than during slow-wave sleep (**Supplementary Fig. S1f**) or wakefulness

(**Supplementary Fig. S1c**). However, the power of the very fast component was significantly

greater during REM sleep than during light NREM sleep (**Fig. 1d & e**; **Supplementary Fig. S1e**).

These findings demonstrate that both slow-wave sleep and REM sleep are indeed characterized by

higher frequency CSF dynamics than light sleep (see **Supplementary Fig. S2** for the relationship

between CSF signals and whole gray matter (GM) signals).

Previous reports have extracted fMRI signals from the fourth ventricle[9,11,36] to investigate

the CSF signal changes potentially reflecting inflow during light sleep and wakefulness. We next

asked whether the sleep depth-dependent changes in the frequency profiles could be found

specifically in the lateral ventricles or could be found elsewhere in the ventricles. To test this, we

examined CSF signals in the fourth ventricle (**Supplementary Note**, **Supplementary Figs. S3–**

S5). As in the lateral ventricles, slow-wave sleep was dominated by the fast frequency component

(**Supplementary Fig. S4b & d**, **Fig. S5b & d**; all $Ps < 0.05$), whereas light NREM sleep was

characterized by the slow frequency component (**Supplementary Fig. S4a & d**, **Fig. S5a & d**; all

$Ps < 0.05$). Thus, regardless of the ventricles analyzed, deep sleep is characterized by greater high-

frequency power in the CSF signal.

Slow waves and sleep spindles facilitate CSF fluctuations during slow-wave sleep

We next directly tested whether the higher-frequency CSF dynamics during slow-wave

sleep are induced by brain oscillations, such as slow waves and sleep spindles, independent of

arousal mechanisms. To test this, EEG signals recorded simultaneously with fMRI data had

artifacts removed, and then slow waves and sleep spindles were detected from the EEG signals

during light NREM and slow-wave sleep (see ***Sleep event detection*** and ***fMRI time course***

analysis in **Methods**, **Fig. 2a**). The CSF signal changes were measured for each event. If sleep

brain oscillations modulate CSF signals, significant changes in the CSF signals would be observed

after the onset of oscillations. We first confirmed that slow waves occurred significantly more

frequently during slow-wave sleep than during light NREM sleep (**Fig. 2b**; mean intervals between

events, light NREM sleep, 73.9 ± 13.05 s; slow-wave sleep, 14.8 ± 3.52 s, *mean ± SE*; two-tailed

paired *t*-test, $P = 0.012$), whereas spindles occurred more frequently during light NREM sleep than

during slow-wave sleep (**Fig. 2b**; mean intervals between events, light NREM sleep, 5.3 ± 0.29 s;

slow-wave sleep, 6.8 ± 0.41 s, two-tailed paired *t*-test, $P = 0.0002$).

Importantly, CSF signal changes induced by brain oscillations exhibit different

characteristics depending on the depth of sleep. During light NREM sleep, in addition to sleep

spindles that induced significant CSF signal changes at 6 s after onset (**Fig. 2c**, dark green), slow

waves induced a large CSF signal peak at 8 s after onset (**Fig. 2c**, light green). In contrast, during

slow-wave sleep, slow waves triggered CSF signal changes peaking at 5.5 s **(Fig. 2d**, light blue),

which was significantly smaller in amplitude (**Fig. 2e**, two-tailed paired *t*-test, $P = 0.00003$) and

shorter in latency (**Fig. 2f**, two-tailed paired *t*-test, $P = 0.00003$) than light NREM sleep, indicating

faster and milder CSF circulation in association with ample brain oscillations during slow-wave

sleep. During slow-wave sleep, sleep spindles again induced CSF signal changes at 4 s after their

onset, which lasted for approximately 10 s (**Fig. 2d**, dark blue). These findings demonstrate that

CSF signal changes are indeed correlated with brain oscillations during sleep. See **Supplementary**

Fig. S6 for the GM signal changes and their relationship to the CSF signals.

To further confirm the tight relationship between the CSF signal changes and sleep brain

oscillations, we conducted an inverse analysis; we investigated the EEG topographical changes

based on CSF signal positive peak events (see ***CSF peak locked EEG topography analysis*** in

Methods). The segmented EEG data were averaged for each sleep stage (**Supplementary Fig.**

S7). The EEG topographic map indicated a negative peak centered around the frontal region,

resembling a topography of K-complexes, which peaked 8 s *before* the CSF positive peak events

during light NREM sleep (note that slow waves during light NREM sleep were followed by a CSF

peak 8s *after* the onset of slow wave events, **Fig. 2c**). During slow-wave sleep, a negative peak

spread through the midline of frontal to parietal regions resembling those found typically in slow

waves[37] which peaked around 5 s *before* the CSF positive peak events during slow-wave sleep

(note that slow waves during slow-wave sleep were followed by a CSF peak 5.5s *after* the onset

of slow wave events, **Fig. 2d**). These inverse analyses further confirmed that sleep brain

oscillations and CSF signal fluctuations are tightly linked.

Rapid eye movements and sawtooth waves during REM sleep modulate CSF fluctuations

Do brain oscillations modulate CSF dynamics only during NREM sleep? Rapid eye

movements and sawtooth waves during REM sleep have been associated with memory processing

and conscious experiences[27,38,39]. Thus, if neural activities during REM sleep, not limited to NREM

sleep events, contribute to CSF signal changes, CSF signals should show significant changes that

are time-locked to these events. To this end, we detected typical REM sleep events, such as rapid

eye movements and sawtooth waves observed during REM sleep (**Fig. 3a**; *Sleep event detection*

in **Methods**). We combined all of the REM sleep events together since the number of events was

limited (**Fig. 3b**). We found that REM sleep events increased the signal fluctuations 30 s after the

onset of the events (**Fig. 3c**; see **Supplementary Fig. S8a–b** for the results for each event). In

contrast to NREM sleep events, REM sleep events took a longer time to induce a smaller CSF

signal fluctuation (**Fig. 3c**). We next tested whether global brain activation occurs prior to the CSF

peaks, similar to NREM sleep. We found that REM sleep events also induced a GM signal increase

at 20 s after onset (**Fig. 3d**; **Supplementary Fig. S8c–d**), approximately 10 s before the CSF peak.

However, REM sleep events showed a significant positive, not negative, correlation between the

CSF and GM signals (**Fig. 3e**, $r = 0.31$ at lag -6.1 s, $P < 1e-10$), suggesting different mechanisms

for CSF and GM coupling between NREM and REM sleep (see also **Supplementary Fig. S6c &**

d for CSF and GM coupling during NREM sleep).

Different contributions of sleep brain oscillations and ascending arousal mechanisms to CSF

dynamics

Thus far, our results indicate that brain oscillations and neural events during deep sleep

modulate CSF dynamics. Could these changes be explained solely by the ascending arousal

mechanisms as previous studies[10,30] have indicated? If so, similar changes in the CSF signals could

be induced by sleep-related brain oscillations and arousal. To investigate whether the contributions

of sleep-related brain oscillations to CSF fluctuations are based on arousal mechanisms, we

examined arousal-induced CSF signal changes and directly compared them with sleep-related

brain oscillation-induced CSF signal changes. Arousal events in the EEG signals were detected by

sleep experts in accordance with the standard criteria[35]. The arousal events were defined as an

abrupt shift in EEG frequency, which was clearly visible in the EEG signals (**Fig. 4a**; *Sleep event*

detection in **Methods**). The CSF and GM signals were subsequently segmented on the basis of

each arousal onset.

The arousals occurred more often during light NREM sleep (21.2 ± 1.9) than during slow-

wave sleep (0.3 ± 0.1; **Fig. 4b**; two-tailed paired *t*-test, $P = 1.8225e\text{-}10$) or REM sleep (0.9 ± 0.2;

Fig. 4b; two-tailed paired *t*-test, $P = 4.1543e\text{-}08$). These findings confirm that deep sleep is the

least prone to arousals. Next, CSF signal changes time-locked to arousal events were measured.

The average CSF signals increased 8 s after the onset of the arousal events and then returned to

baseline 20 s after onset (**Fig. 4c**, black). Arousal-related CSF and GM signal changes were similar

across sleep stages (**Fig. 4c, d**), with the exception that the CSF signal changes to arousals were

barely visible during slow-wave sleep (**Fig. 4c**). Notably, the CSF and GM signal changes caused

by arousals and slow waves during light NREM sleep had similar signal properties (**Fig. 4e, f**).

The latency to reach the peak CSF signal was approximately 8 s (**Fig. 4e, h**), and CSF signal

changes were followed by a large GM undershoot (**Fig. 4f**). In contrast, slow waves during slow-

wave sleep induced a shorter latency (**Fig. 4e, h**; P = 2.0568e-07) and smaller amplitude changes

(**Fig. 4e & g**; P = 2.0568e-07) in the CSF signals as compared to the arousals (see **Supplementary**

Fig. S9 for each comparison). One may wonder whether the differences in the signal properties

between arousals and slow waves are simply due to the frequencies of the events, as a larger

number of events may induce larger accumulative changes. However, since the total number of

slow waves during slow-wave sleep (77.8 ± 21.8) was significantly greater than the total number

of arousals (22.7 ± 1.9; P = 0.0175), this is unlikely.

These findings consistently indicate that arousals and slow waves during light sleep induce

slow and large CSF fluctuations, whereas slow waves during slow-wave sleep induce fast yet small

CSF signal changes, suggesting that sleep depth-dependent brain oscillations and ascending

arousal circuits contribute differently to CSF fluctuations.

CSF dynamics associated with respiration, cardiac rhythms, and head motions

Since previous studies demonstrated tight coupling among respiration, cardiac pulses, and

CSF dynamics[10,36,40], we performed additional control analyses and confirmed that none of the

respiratory or cardiac rhythms were likely to have caused the differences in the CSF dynamics

among sleep stages and brain oscillations.

First, the intervals of the events were longer during the deep sleep stages than during the

light sleep stages. Cardiac cycles were significantly longer during slow-wave sleep or REM sleep

than during wakefulness (slow-wave sleep vs. wakefulness: $P = 7.85e-07$; REM sleep vs.

wakefulness: $P = 5.31e-04$; **Supplementary Fig. S10a**). There was no significant difference in

respiratory cycles across different sleep depths (**Supplementary Fig. S10b**). Second, the periodic

frequency changes across different sleep depths were not produced by denoising processes during

the fMRI preprocessing. To this end, we investigated the periodic component of CSF signals across

different sleep depths without denoising processes of respiration and cardiac pulses following

previous studies[33,34]. The key findings in the periodic frequency changes remained regardless of

the existence of respiration and cardiac cycles in the fMRI signals (**Supplementary Figs. S11–**

13). Third, although a gradual increase occurred in the CSF signals after the respiration and cardiac

pulses, these changes were significantly smaller than the CSF signal changes that occurred after

brain oscillations (**Supplementary Fig. S14**). Fourth, the cardiac and respirations had higher

frequency signals (cardiac: around 1Hz; respiration: around 0.3Hz; **Supplementary Fig. S15** and

Fig. 1d) that did not overlap with the frequency range induced by sleep brain oscillations (fast:

0.06–0.12 Hz, very fast: 0.12–0.15 Hz; **Fig. 1d**). Thus, these physiological signals are not the main

causes of the faster oscillating CSF signals found during slow-wave sleep and REM sleep.

Additionally, one may wonder whether our findings were caused by confounders such as

head motion. We further performed a control analysis to investigate the effects of head motion in

our current dataset. To this end, we examined differences in the distance of head motion during

fMRI scans across different sleep depths. We found that head motion during slow-wave sleep

$(0.021 \pm 0.002$ mm/volume) was significantly smaller than that during light NREM $(0.027 \pm 0.002$

mm/volume, $P=0.0056$) or REM sleep $(0.025 \pm 0.002$ mm/volume, $P=0.0057$; **Supplementary**

Fig. S16). These findings show that deep sleep is the least prone to head motions; thus, the effect

of head motion, if any, would have been minimal during deep sleep compared with light sleep.

Sleep-depth-dependent and arousal-associated changes in the brain network

Because brain oscillations during slow-wave sleep are involved in plasticity and homeostatic regulation[41–43], while K-complexes during light sleep involve arousal mechanisms[12–15], we next asked whether the different modulations of CSF and GM signals found during light sleep, deep sleep, and arousals (**Fig. 1d & e**, **Fig. 2c–f**, **Fig. 4e–h**) were, in fact, due to the differences in brain circuits involved during different depths of sleep. To this end, we applied a generalized linear model (GLM) analysis on the fMRI signals to each event.

We found that different cortical networks were recruited depending on the depth of sleep (**Fig. 5**, **Supplementary Tables S1–7**). The prefrontal and hippocampal regions, striatum, and amygdala were more strongly recruited to slow waves during slow-wave sleep than during light NREM sleep (**Fig. 5**, **Supplementary Table S2**), whereas sensorimotor areas, including the parietal and visual cortices and cerebellum, were more strongly activated with slow waves during light NREM sleep than during slow-wave sleep (**Fig. 5**, **Supplementary Table S1**). These findings indicate that different cortical processing underlies slow waves during light NREM vs. slow-wave sleep. Additionally, we found that more localized cortical brain regions were recruited to sleep spindles during slow-wave sleep than during light NREM sleep (**Supplementary Tables S5 & S6**). REM sleep events activated brain regions, including visual areas, the thalamus, the hippocampus, the striatum, and the amygdala (**Fig. 5, Supplementary Tables S3 & S7**). In contrast to slow-wave sleep or REM sleep, arousals involved whole-brain activations not localized to any regions (**Fig. 5**, **Supplementary Table S4**). Taken together, these results demonstrate that brain oscillations involved in regulating CSF dynamics recruit essentially different networks depending on the depth of sleep.

Discussion

The present results robustly indicate that deep human sleep has a unique way of modulating CSF dynamics, as indicated in **Table 2**. The frequency of CSF signals becomes faster during deep sleep than during wakefulness or light sleep. We further revealed that brain oscillations are the sources of these distinct frequency profiles. Slow waves and sleep spindles during slow-wave sleep induce faster changes in CSF fluctuations. Neural events during REM sleep, such as rapid eye movements and sawtooth waves, also accelerate CSF dynamics. In contrast, arousals and brain oscillations during light sleep induce infrequent, sharp CSF changes. We showed that different brain networks are activated by brain oscillations or events during different depths of sleep. Deep sleep recruits brain regions involved in memory and homeostatic regulation, whereas light sleep and arousal recruit whole-brain activation, including the sensory-motor network.

The present study demonstrated that at least two different processes are involved in regulating CSF dynamics in human sleep. The first process is prominent during light sleep when arousals and arousal-related brain activities take the lead in modulating CSF oscillations. The second process is facilitated specifically during deep stable sleep when arousals are largely suppressed. However, during deep sleep, CSF oscillations are enhanced by spontaneous brain oscillations and neural events, such as slow waves, sleep spindles, and REM sleep events. Since sleep events occur more often than arousals during deep sleep, it is highly likely that sleep events, not arousals, are the major contributors to CSF oscillations during deep sleep. We further propose that these two processes are supported by entirely distinctive mechanisms, as shown in **Fig. 6**. The process during light NREM sleep is based on ascending arousal mechanisms ("arousal-based mechanism"), in which transient increases in brain activity increase CSF oscillations by arousing

stimuli to subcortical regions. Arousals occur frequently during light NREM sleep, as we have

shown (**Fig. 4b**) and as reported previously[44]. It is also well documented that a particular type of

slow wave that dominates light NREM sleep, known as K-complexes, recruits arousal

mechanisms[9,12,13]. Another process that we propose here for the first time functions *specifically*

during deep sleep ("deep sleep-based mechanism"), which is tightly linked to sleep brain

oscillations to drive the CSF oscillations. This deep-sleep mechanism works continuously,

producing faster CSF oscillations by tightly interacting with sleep-related brain oscillations. In

contrast to the arousal mechanism that induces sharp and transient CSF peaks, the deep-sleep

mechanism induces low-amplitude oscillations, potentially causing minimal load to the vascular

system while enabling continuous faster oscillations.

The higher frequency of CSF oscillations during slow-wave sleep found in the present

study might be related to the metabolic waste clearance function suggested in animals[5]. We found

that slow waves are among the main oscillations that produce faster CSF circulation during deep

sleep. Importantly, slow waves during slow-wave sleep are tightly regulated by homeostatic sleep

needs[41]. Given the suggested relationship between prolonged wakefulness or increased brain usage

and the accumulation of metabolic waste[6], faster CSF circulation induced by increased slow waves

due to increased homeostatic sleep might work well for clearing waste products. Investigating how

higher-frequency CSF oscillations during deep sleep contribute to metabolic waste clearance is

important in future research.

Another key finding in the present study is the contribution of sleep spindles to CSF

dynamics. First, we found that sleep spindles facilitate CSF oscillations during sleep. Second, sleep

spindles during slow-wave sleep are followed by activations in the brain networks involved in

episodic and motor learning (e.g., the hippocampus and striatum). Sleep spindles are known to

facilitate episodic and motor learning through plastic changes in cortical and subcortical regions[45–

47]. Thus, it is possible that CSF oscillations are coupled not only to sleep homeostasis but also to

plasticity processes, where sleep spindles might play a major role.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study in humans to reveal the modulations of

CSF signals by brain activity during REM sleep. We found that REM sleep events, including rapid

eye movements and sawtooth waves, the chief events of human REM sleep, enhance CSF signals.

While we found faster CSF dynamics during REM sleep as well as during slow-wave sleep, the

roles of CSF oscillations might differ. First, we found that not only the very fast component ($>$

0.12 Hz) but also the slow component (< 0.06 Hz) was present in the CSF frequency profiles during

REM sleep. Second, the latency to the CSF peak was much longer during REM sleep than during

slow-wave sleep. Third, the CSF peak did not accompany the GM undershoot during REM sleep.

Interestingly, CSF flows are reduced in pigeons[48] and are predicted to be reduced in rodents[49]. Our

results suggest that the CSF dynamics found in the present study are unique to humans, whose

REM sleep is more consolidated than that of avians or rodents. How REM sleep regulates CSF

oscillations needs to be further investigated. In addition to the rapid eye movements and sawtooth

waves we analyzed in this study, theta and alpha activities can be observed via EEG, and muscle

twitches occur intermittently during REM sleep, which were not examined here. Although it is

widely known that REM sleep data are very difficult to acquire both in humans and in

animals[31,48,50], the methodological advancements introduced in the present study (simultaneous

sparse fMRI and PSG technique) could facilitate investigations into REM sleep.

One may wonder whether cardiac and respiratory rhythms cause differences in the CSF

peaks during different sleep stages and brain oscillations since CSF signals are known to be

coupled to cardiac and respiratory rhythms[36,51,52]. However, these signals are unlikely to be the

sources of the differences in the CSF signal changes among sleep stages and brain oscillations

found in the present study for the following three reasons. First, the intervals of the cardiac signals

were significantly longer during slow-wave sleep or REM sleep than during wakefulness. There

was no significant difference in the respiratory signals across different sleep depths. If these factors

contribute to changes in the CSF signal, the CSF signals should be slower during deep sleep than

during light sleep. Thus, these rhythms are not in accordance with the significantly faster CSF

signals found during slow-wave sleep and REM sleep. Second, we investigated the effects of

respiration and cardiac pulses in fMRI signals on the periodic frequency changes in CSF signals.

The key findings of the periodic frequency changes in the CSF signals remained regardless of the

existence of respiration and cardiac pulses in the fMRI signals. Third, previous studies have

indicated that cardiac- and respiration-driven CSF signal changes occur 0.45–1.58 s after the

events[36]. However, CSF signal changes caused by slow waves were in the range of 5.5–8 s after

the events, much later than the cardiac and respiration-driven changes that might have occurred.

Additionally, we investigated the CSF signal changes after respiration and cardiac pulses. We

found that respiration- and cardiac-driven signal changes were significantly smaller than sleep-

related brain oscillations and arousals. Thus, the CSF peaks caused by cardiac and respiratory

rhythms, if any, should not overlap with the CSF peaks caused by brain oscillations.

The present study at least partially clarifies why and how deep stable sleep matters for

healthy human cognitive functions. Sleep disturbances are a major issue worldwide and are

associated with various health-related issues, including cognitive impairments, neurodegenerative

diseases and aging[16,53–55]. Importantly, the most striking change found in these cases is the

reduction in deep stable sleep. In other words, light NREM sleep most likely remains regardless

of the severity of the disorder. Along with evidence showing a strong relationship between the

stages of sleep, CSF dynamics, and metabolite clearance[5,6,8,56], dysfunctions in deep sleep may

have severe impacts on cognitive functions at least partially via altered CSF flows.

Although the present study did not directly measure the underlying mechanisms of the tight

link between sleep brain oscillations and the CSF dynamics, one of the likely mechanisms involves

vascular dynamics (i.e., vasomotion, vasoconstriction, vasodilation)[9,28,49]. The vascular dynamics

may change the size of the perivascular spaces of the penetrating arterioles where the CSF circulate

throughout the brain[6,28,49]. Since neural activity, vascular dynamics, and CSF dynamics interact

with each other[9,28,49], synchronous neural activities, such as slow waves, sleep spindles, and

various REM-sleep events may trigger vasomotion, which may create sufficient spaces for CSF to

be circulated[9,28,49]. Based on the present findings, which clearly showed that deep sleep involves

faster CSF signal changes, these underlying processes may be more pronounced during deep stable

sleep than during light sleep or wakefulness. These further suggest that deep sleep has a specific

role in maintaining the tight physiological and neural balance and that light sleep may not be able

to compensate for the loss of deep sleep caused by sleep restrictions, aging, or diseases.

The following four points need to be addressed in future research. First, our data were

obtained from midafternoon naps. Thus, what happens during nightly sleep when sleep needs are

greater is unclear. As the duration of slow-wave sleep is the longest and the number of slow waves

is the maximum during the first half of nightly sleep[35], it is possible that CSF oscillations are much

greater. REM sleep, in contrast, is longest during the early morning, and REM density is greater[35].

Thus, REM-related CSF dynamics could benefit from early morning studies. Second, our data are

restricted to approximately 1.5 hours, corresponding to the first sleep cycle. Thus, how CSF

dynamics change over multiple sleep cycles is unclear. Third, since the present study did not

directly measure the amount of metabolite waste or investigate the causal relationship between

CSF and metabolites, how higher-frequency CSF oscillations during deep sleep contribute to waste

clearance needs to be clarified in future research. Fourth, the TR in the present study was longer

(3 s) than conventionally used (1~2 s) to prioritize the acquisition of deep stable sleep data. Thus,

it was not ideal to measure the CSF signal changes driven by the cardiac and respiratory rhythms.

Future research is necessary to investigate how physiological rhythms are in accord with CSF

signals during deep sleep.

Taken together, the results of the present study clearly reveal the existence of deep sleep-

based CSF dynamics, which are regulated by sleep-brain oscillations and events, during slow-

wave sleep and REM sleep. These deep sleep-based CSF dynamics are distinct from the arousal-

based CSF dynamics previously suggested for the following reasons. First, the frequency

components are different between deep and light sleep. Second, the latency and amplitude

characteristics are different. Third, the relationships with whole GM signals are different. Fourth,

the brain networks induced by sleep brain oscillations during light vs. deep sleep and by arousals

are different. While the causal relationship between CSF signals during sleep and brain functions

is unclear, the present study collectively suggests that deep sleep-based CSF dynamics are the key

to understanding how healthy brain functions are maintained through sleep in humans.

Methods

Participants

Twenty-five young healthy participants (mean age of 23.6 ± 4.8 years, 15 female) participated in this study. All of the participants provided written informed consent for their participation prior to the start of the study. This study was approved by the institutional review board at RIKEN.

Screening process for eligibility

Before consent was obtained, the screening process for eligibility took place to confirm the following aspects. First, the participants were between 18 and 35 years old. Second, on the basis of a self-report questionnaire[23], anyone who had neurological or psychiatric conditions (e.g., epilepsy, migraine, stroke, chronic pain, major depression, anxiety disorder, psychotic disorder), was currently using medication, or was suspected of having a sleep disorder (including insomnia, sleep apnea syndrome, hypersomnolence, restless legs syndrome, parasomnias) was not eligible to participate. Third, participants who had an irregular sleep schedule, i.e., those whose sleep/wake time differed by more than 2 hours between weekdays and weekends, were not eligible. We also ensured that the subjects had not taken a trip to a different time zone during the last six months prior to the experiment. Participants who worked night shifts or who had a habit of taking a nap were not eligible for this study. Fourth, a Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) was used to assess sleep quality and disturbances over a one-month time interval before the experiments, and a PSQI score within 5 was used as an inclusion criteria[57]. Fifth, those who failed to complete an MRI safety questionnaire (i.e., claustrophobic, pregnant, having metallic objects in the body, such as vascular clips, prosthetic valves, metal prostheses, metal fragments, pacemakers, or dental braces) were not eligible for this study.

Experimental design

All eligible subjects participated in two sleep sessions approximately one week apart. The participants first answered a questionnaire to report their bedtime, wake-up time, and duration of sleep the night before. They also answered the Stanford Sleepiness Scale (SSS) rating[58], which ranges from 1 (feeling active, vital, alert, or wide awake) to 7 (no longer fighting sleep, sleep onset soon; having dream-like thoughts). The subjects were asked to choose the scale rating that described their state of sleepiness. Then, the electrodes for PSG were attached, which took approximately one hour (see the PSG measurement section below). After the electrodes were attached, each sleep session started in the early afternoon for simultaneous measurement of MRI and PSG (see the MRI acquisition section below). The sleep session was conducted for approximately 90 min in the MRI scanner. After the sleep session, they answered a questionnaire about the sleep content (data not shown).

The participants were instructed to maintain their regular sleep-wake habits, i.e., their daily wake/sleep time and sleep duration, until the study was over. The sleep-wake habits of the participants were monitored by a sleep log and an actigraphy device (ACOS, Japan) during the study. Throughout their participation, the subjects were instructed to refrain from taking naps. One day prior to the experiments, alcohol consumption was not allowed. Unusual excessive physical exercise and caffeine consumption were not allowed on the day of the sleep sessions.

MRI acquisition

MRI data were acquired with a 3T Siemens Prisma MRI scanner (Siemens Healthineers, Germany) using a 64-channel head and neck coil at RIKEN. An anatomical T1-weighted image was acquired

using a 3D magnetization-prepared rapid gradient echo (MPRAGE) sequence (TR = 2180 ms, TI

= 1100 ms, TE = 2.95 ms, FA = 8°, voxel size = 0.7×0.7×0.7 mm^3, FOV = 290 × 320 × 256 mm).

Functional MRI data were acquired using a sparse gradient-echo echo-planar imaging sequence

(TR/TE=3000/30 ms, FA=85°, Multiband factor=3, 42 transverse slices, voxel size = 3x3x3 mm^3,

1800 volumes, GRAPPA factor=3, bandwidth=752 Hz/pixel, B1+RMS=0.5 µT, MR acquisition

time=0.9 s, and quiet period=2.1 s)[59]. Cardiac and respiratory cycles were simultaneously recorded

using a fingertip PPG sensor and respiratory belt (BIOPAC, US) with a 100 Hz sampling rate.

Anatomical and functional MRI data were acquired simultaneously with polysomnography (see

the PSG measurement section below). Cushions and gauze were used to stabilize the subjects'

heads to reduce discomfort and head motion. Back and knee cushions were used upon the

participants' request to further reduce discomfort. Several blankets were used to keep the

participants warm and to initiate sleep during the scan[23,32].

PSG measurement

EEG data were acquired using a BrainAmp MRplus EEG amplifier (Brain Products, Gilching,

Germany) with a 5 kHz sampling rate and an MR-compatible 32-channel EEG cap (EasyCap,

Wörthsee, Germany). The hardware bandpass filters were set to a 0.016–250 Hz range, with a roll-

off of 30 dB/octave at high frequency. The electrode layout followed the extended international

10-20 system with additional drop-down channels or bipolar electrodes for recording the

electrocardiogram (ECG), electrooculogram (EOG), and chin electromyogram (EMG). EEG was

measured from either 27 electrodes (16 participants) or 31 electrodes (9 participants). For all of

the participants, EOG was measured from electrodes placed at the outer canthi. EMG was

measured from the mentum. ECG signals were measured from the lower shoulder blade. FCz was

used as the reference electrode, whereas AFz was used as the ground electrode. EEG data were

transferred outside the scanner room through fiber optic cables to a computer running the

BrainVision Recorder software (Brain Products, Gilching, Germany). MR-EEG scanner clocks

were synchronized (Brain Products Synchbox) for all EEG data acquisitions, and the onset of every

scanner repetition time (TR) period was recorded in the EEG data for MR gradient artifact

correction. The impedance of all electrodes was initially maintained below 10 kΩ and was

maintained below a maximum of 20 kΩ for the duration of the study.

PSG data preprocessing

PSG data were contaminated by artifacts due to the strong magnetic field. To remove the artifacts

from the PSG data, gradient artifacts were first corrected using BrainVision Analyzer2 (Version

2.2.0, Brain Products GmbH, Gilching, Germany) with the standard average artifact subtraction

(AAS) method. The AAS method uses sliding window templates formed from the averages of 21

TRs, which are subtracted from each occurrence of the respective artifacts for each electrode [60,61].

The gradient-artifact corrected data were subsequently bandpass filtered (EEG: 0.1–50 Hz with a

notch filter of 50 Hz) and downsampled to 250 Hz. Following the GA correction, cardiac R-peaks

were automatically detected from the ECG recording in BrainVision Analyzer2, checked visually

and corrected manually if necessary. These R-peak events were used to inform ballistocardiogram

correction. The BCG artifacts were further corrected via the AAS method with sliding window

templates formed from the averages of 21 R-peaks in BrainVision Analyzer2[62,63]. These procedures

were conducted for the whole duration of the fMRI scan to obtain artifact-removed PSG data for

further processing (see ***Sleep stage scoring*** and ***Sleep event detection*** below).

Sleep stage scoring

Sleep staging was conducted on the artifact-removed PSG data following the standard criteria[35].

Prior to sleep staging, PSG data were further bandpass filtered between 0.3 and 40 Hz for EEG,

EOG and ECG and between 10 and 50 Hz for EMG to remove low-frequency drift and high-

frequency noise and were re-referenced to the linked mastoids (TP9 & TP10). Scoring of the sleep

stages was performed every 30 s in conjunction by two trained sleep scorers (MT & AS). We

obtained sleep parameters, including the total sleep time and duration of the sleep stages (**Table**

1). For further analysis, N1 and N2 were combined as light NREM sleep, and N3 was categorized

as slow-wave sleep. Epochs with motion artifacts and arousal events were marked and removed

from further analyses, whereas the arousal events were used only for arousal analysis.

Sleep event detection

Using the artifact-removed PSG data, sleep events, including slow waves, sleep spindles, rapid eye

movements, sawtooth waves, and arousal events, were detected as follows.

<u>Slow waves</u>

Slow waves were detected using a two-step semiautomatic procedure. First, slow waves were

detected automatically[64] using Wonambi software (https://wonambi-python.github.io/) for the F3,

Fz, F4, C3, Cz, C4, P3, Pz, and P4 electrodes during the N2 and N3 stages. Specifically, EEG

signals were bandpass filtered between 0.1 and 4 Hz with a zero-phase 4th-order Butterworth filter.

Slow waves were detected when the following three criteria were met: 1) a positive-to-negative

zero crossing and a subsequent negative-to-positive zero crossing separated between 0.3 s and 1 s,

2) a negative peak between the two zero crossings with voltages smaller than -80 µV, and 3) a

peak-to-peak amplitude greater than 140 µV. The automatically detected slow waves were then

reviewed and removed by an experimenter if necessary. The number of slow waves was measured

for each electrode, and the electrode that had the maximum number of slow waves was used as the

most sensitive electrode for slow wave detection. The onset and duration of slow waves were

measured from the specific electrode for further analysis of CSF and GM signals (see ***fMRI time***

course analysis and ***fMRI GLM analysis*** below).

<u>Sleep spindles</u>

Spindles were detected using a two-step semiautomatic procedure. As the first step, an automatic

spindle detection method was used to detect the spindles[65] with Wonambi software for the F3, Fz,

F4, C3, Cz, C4, P3, Pz, and P4 electrodes during the N2 and N3 stages. Specifically, these EEG

signals were filtered between 12–15 Hz, which corresponded to the sleep spindle frequency band.

The root mean square (RMS) of the filtered signals was subsequently calculated at every sample

point using a moving window of 0.2 s. The threshold for spindle detection in the RMS signal was

set to 1.5 standard deviations of the filtered signal for each electrode. A spindle was detected when

the RMS signal remained above the threshold for 0.5–3 s, and then the beginning and end of the

spindle were marked at the threshold crossing points. When sleep spindles from multiple electrodes

overlapped within a 5 s time window, those sleep spindles were treated as trains of continuous

sleep spindles and merged. In the second step, the automatically detected spindles were reviewed

and removed by an experimenter if necessary. The onset and duration of sleep spindles were used

for further analysis of CSF and GM signals (see ***fMRI time course analysis*** and ***fMRI GLM***

analysis below).

Rapid eye movements

Rapid eye movement events were detected during REM sleep. Rapid eye movement events were

automatically detected on two EOG signals[66]. Specifically, to separate rapid eye movements from

slow eye movements (SEMs), two channels of EOG data are filtered using a fourth-order

Butterworth bandpass filter with cutoffs at 1 and 9 Hz to yield the filtered EOG data. The candidate

REM sleep events were generated as the negative instantaneous product of the two filtered EOG

sequences, and the REM sleep events were detected on the basis of their amplitude threshold. The

amplitude threshold was arbitrarily determined on the basis of each individual dataset, since, owing

to differences in the setup and/or the quality of the artifact removal, there were individual

differences in the amplitude of the EOG data. The onset and duration of rapid eye movements were

used for further analysis of the CSF and GM signals (see ***fMRI time course analysis*** below).

Sawtooth waves

Sawtooth waves were manually marked on the scalp EEG independently by two trained sleep

scores (MT & SA) for the REM sleep episodes. These waves were defined as bursts of consecutive

surface-positive 2–5 Hz frontocentral bilateral synchronous symmetric waves with amplitudes of

20–100 µV and with a slow incline to a negative peak with a subsequent steep linear decline ending

at a positive peak[67–69]. The minimum number of consecutive waves was set as 3. The consensus of

the markings obtained from the two raters was selected, and the onset and duration of sawtooth

waves were used for further analysis of the CSF and GM signals (see ***fMRI timecourse analysis***

below).

Arousals

An arousal was defined as an abrupt shift in EEG frequency, which may include theta, alpha and/or

frequencies greater than 16 Hz (but not spindles) that were at least 3 seconds in duration, with at

least 10 seconds of stable sleep preceding the change, in accordance with the standard AASM

criteria[35]. Arousal events were manually scored by two trained sleep experts (MT & SA) by

visually checking the EEG signals. The consensus of the arousal scoring was used, and the onset

and duration of arousal were used for further analysis of the CSF and GM signals (see *fMRI time*

course analysis and *fMRI GLM analysis* below).

MRI data analysis

High-resolution T1-weighted images were processed using FreeSurfer 7.4.0[70]

(https://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/fswiki/FreeSurferWiki) to segment the head into five tissues

(i.e., the scalp, skull, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), gray matter and white matter), and an anatomical

atlas. Anatomical surfaces such as the pial surface, gray/white matter interface and mid surface

(i.e., a middle layer of the gray matter) were estimated using FreeSurfer[71]. The whole gray matter

region (GM) and lateral ventricles were extracted as the two main regions of interest (ROIs) from

each individual participant's anatomical image. For control analyses, the MRI signals were also

extracted from the fourth ventricles (see the **Supplementary Note**). The fMRI data were motion-

corrected and slice-timing corrected using the AFNI (https://afni.nimh.nih.gov) and RIKEN fMRI

processing programs (http://www.fmri.brain.riken.jp/~mri/Software.html). Furthermore, the fMRI

data were denoised using cardiac and respiration signals[33,34]. The two ROI images (GM and lateral

ventricles) were subsequently registered to each fMRI image using FSL FLIRT

(https://fsl.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl/fslwiki/FLIRT), and the fMRI signals were z score transformed and

averaged across the voxels inside each ROI for each sleep session and each participant.

Power spectrum analysis of fMRI data

Time-frequency analysis was applied to the whole fMRI signals during a sleep session of the two ROIs using a multitaper approach[59,72] in the Fieldtrip toolbox[73] (http://www.ru.nl/neuroimaging/fieldtrip). Time windows of 200 s duration were moved across the data in steps of 3 s corresponding to 1 TR, resulting in a frequency resolution of 0.005 Hz. The calculated time-frequency representations (TFRs) were then transformed to the scale of dB by 10*log10, then demeaned by subtracting the mean power at each frequency during the whole recording to calculate power fluctuations. Then, they were segmented based on sleep stages every 30 s, and averaged across each 30 s to extract each epoch power spectrum after removing arousal- and motion-contaminated epochs. On the basis of the resulting power spectrum, periodic components of the power spectrum were extracted after the estimated 1/f aperiodic components were removed by fitting oscillations and one-over-f (FOOOF) algorithms[74]. The resulting periodic power spectra were averaged for each sleep stage first and then across sleep sessions for each ROI.

Power spectrum analysis of cardiac and respiration signals

Cardiac and respiratory cycles during each sleep session were recorded using a fingertip PPG sensor and respiratory belt (BIOPAC, US) with a 100 Hz sampling rate. The same power spectrum analysis steps were applied to the cardiac and respiration signals (see ***Power spectrum analysis of fMRI data*** above).

fMRI time course analysis

fMRI data in each ROI were segmented based on sleep events (slow waves, spindles, rapid eye

movements, sawtooth waves, and arousals). First, -9–0 s (3TRs) before the onset of the events was

defined as a baseline. This baseline signal was averaged and subtracted from 0–30 s after the onset

of the events. These data were averaged across the number of each event for each sleep session

and then averaged across the sleep sessions and participants.

Cardiac and respiration peak-related fMRI time course analysis

Cardiac and respiratory cycles during each sleep session were recorded using a fingertip PPG

sensor and respiratory belt (BIOPAC, US) with a 100 Hz sampling rate. Peaks of the cardiac and

respiration cycles were detected using RIKEN fMRI processing programs

(http://www.fmri.brain.riken.jp/~mri/Software.html). fMRI data in each ROI were segmented

based on the peaks of the cardiac and respiration signals. First, -9–0 s (3TRs) before the onset of

the peak events was defined as a baseline. This baseline signal was averaged and subtracted from

0–30 s after the onset of the peak events. These data were averaged across the number of each

event for each sleep session and then averaged across the sleep sessions and participants.

fMRI GLM analysis

MRI data were processed using FSL v6.0.7.7 (https://fsl.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl/). Data from each

participant were motion corrected (MCFLIRT), spatially smoothed (5 mm FWHM Gaussian

kernel), high-pass temporally filtered (100 s cutoff), registered to their T1 anatomical brain image

(FLIRT), and normalized to the MNI 2 mm standard brain. GLM analyses were performed using

FEAT v6.00. On the basis of each sleep-specific event (onset and duration for slow waves, sleep

spindles, and arousals) detected from the simultaneous EEG data, event-specific first-level analysis

was performed employing one regressor: 1) the event onset and duration. The regressor of interest

was convolved with the double-gamma HRF. Motion parameters estimated during image

realignment (3 translations and 3 rotations around the x, y, and z axes) were included in the matrix

as confounding regressors of no interest. Additionally, since MRI BOLD signal amplitudes vary

across different vigilance states, including sleep[9,10,75–78], the mean MRI signal inside the white

matter region and the mean MRI signal in the cerebrospinal fluid region were included in the GLM

as nuisance regressors[79]. For each event of each participant, the event-specific first-level results

were combined across sleep sessions using a second-level, fixed effect analysis to calculate an

average response per subject. For each event, these second-level results were subsequently

combined and analyzed at the group level using a FLAME mixed-effect analysis[80]. In a cluster-

based threshold statistical analysis, the resulting group-level BOLD Z statistic images were

thresholded using $Z > 3.1$ and a cluster-corrected significance threshold of $P < 0.05$. For

visualization, the group-level thresholded significant BOLD Z statistic image for each event (slow

waves, sleep spindles, and arousals) was transformed onto a standard template surface map

(fsaverage) using feat2surf and a standard template subcortical brain region, and the group-level

thresholded significant BOLD Z statistic image was shown as an isosurface in 3D view in

FreeSurfer freeview software. The automated anatomical atlas 3 (AAL3[81]) was used for anatomical

labeling.

Correlation analysis between CSF and GM signals

Sleep-specific event-locked (i.e., slow waves, spindles, and REM sleep events) time courses of the

CSF and GM signals based on their onset times (-9 s to 30 s) were used to investigate the

correlations between the CSF and GM signals. The correlation coefficients and time lags were

extracted when the absolute coefficient values were at their maximum between the two signals.

CSF peak locked EEG topography analysis

Positive peaks of the CSF signal from the lateral ventricles during each sleep session were detected

using a MATLAB function (findpeaks.m). The MRI-related artifact-removed EEG data were

segmented based on the positive peak events of the CSF signals (-10 s to 0 s). The segmented EEG

data were averaged across the sleep sessions and participants for each sleep stage (N2 and N3 sleep

stages). EEG topographies across time were generated in the Fieldtrip toolbox [73]

(http://www.ru.nl/neuroimaging/fieldtrip).

Statistical analysis

For the fMRI power spectrum analysis, nonparametric cluster-based permutation tests were used

to find significant differences ($P < 0.05$) in the periodic power spectrum across different sleep

stages in each ROI using the Fieldtrip toolbox[82–84]. For the fMRI time course analysis, two-tailed

one-sample t-tests ($P < 0.05$) were applied to each time point of the fMRI signals compared with

zero. Two-tailed paired t-tests were used to compare each time point of event-locked fMRI signals

between sleep stages. Two-tailed paired t-tests were used for the statistical inference of the

correlation analysis and the numbers and time intervals of each event across different sleep depths.

The alpha level was set as 0.05. To control for multiple comparison problems, Bonferroni

corrections were applied to minimize the false-positive rates in the statistical inference of the

correlation analysis and the numbers and time intervals of each event across different sleep depths.

False discovery rate (FDR) corrections[85] were used for other statistical comparisons, such as

comparing each time point of the fMRI signals.

Data availability

The datasets generated and/or analyzed in the current study are available from the

corresponding author upon request.

Code availability

The computer code that was used to generate results central to the conclusions of this

study is available from the corresponding author upon request.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank M. A. Carskadon for helpful comments on an earlier draft. This work

was supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Numbers JP22H01107 (MT) and JP22K18664 (MT),

the Naito Foundation (MT), Takeda Science Foundation (MT), Life Science Foundation of

JAPAN (MU).

Author contributions

MU and MT designed the research. MU, XL, AS, RK, RAW, CS, KU, SA and MT

performed the experiments. MU, SA and MT analyzed the data. MU and MT wrote the paper.

All confirmed the content.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Supplementary Materials:

Supplementary Figs. S1–16

Supplementary Tables S1–7

Supplementary Note

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Table 1 Sleep parameters

	NP	NS	Mean ± SE		
Time in bed (min)	25	50	89.7	±	0.3
Sleep efficiency (%)	25	50	77.6	±	3.2
Wakefulness (%)	25	48	22.4	±	3.2
Light NREM sleep (%)	25	50	62.8	±	2.9
Slow-wave sleep (%)	18	30	12.3	±	2.3
REM sleep (%)	13	18	2.4	±	0.6

NP, the number of participants. **NS**, the number of sessions. Time in bed indicates the duration of sleep sessions during MRI scan (the time interval between lights-off and lights-on). Sleep efficiency was measured by [total sleep duration / time in bed]. Light NREM sleep indicates the percentage of time in NREM sleep stages 1 and 2. Slow-wave sleep indicates the percentage of time in NREM sleep stage 3. REM sleep indicates the percentage of time in REM sleep stage. PSG data were scored in accordance with standard criteria[35].

Table 2: Summary of key oscillations, recruited brain regions, and CSF characteristics during sleep and arousals.

	Light NREM sleep	Slow-wave sleep	REM sleep	Arousals
Key oscillations / events	K-complexes Sleep spindles	Slow waves Sleep spindles	Rapid eye movements Sawtooth waves	N/A (mixed)
Brain regions	Sensory	Frontal, hippocampus	Visual, hippocampus	Widespread
CSF frequency	Slow	Fast	Slow + very fast	N/A
CSF amplitude	Larger	Smaller	Larger	Larger
CSF latency	Longer	Shorter	Longer	Longer

Brain regions indicate activated brain regions to key oscillations or events in each sleep stage. CSF power frequency indicates the frequency characteristics in each sleep stage. CSF amplitude and latency indicates relative amplitudes and latencies in the CSF signals time-locked to the onset of brain oscillations / events across different sleep stages. **Green** cells indicate slower and larger impacts on the CSF signals, representing strong but infrequent CSF and brain dynamics. **Blue** cells indicate faster and smaller impacts on the CSF signals, representing mild but frequent CSF and brain dynamics. **Red** cell indicates a very fast component in the CSF signals that is specific to REM sleep with a mixture of the slow component (green).

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Fig. 1: Frequency profiles of CSF signals in the lateral ventricles vary across different sleep depths. a, Example EEG data before and after artifact removal obtained via the sparse fMRI method developed in the present study. **b**, A schematic of the regions of interest. Blue, lateral ventricles. Red, whole gray matter (GM). **c**, Example MRI signals (top) and corresponding sleep stages (bottom) during a 90-min sleep session. Blue, CSF signals. Red, GM signals. Wake, wakefulness. SWS, slow-wave sleep. Light, light NREM sleep. REM, REM sleep. **d**, Periodic CSF

signal power spectrum against each frequency bin for each sleep stage. The fast component power

was significantly greater during slow-wave sleep than during wakefulness or light NREM sleep

(blue vs. green and black; cluster-based permutation tests, $Ps < 0.05$; **Supplementary Fig. S1b &**

d). In contrast, the slow component was significantly larger during light NREM than during

wakefulness or slow-wave sleep (green vs. black and blue; cluster-based permutation tests, $P <$

0.05; **supplementary Fig. S1a & d**). See **Supplementary Fig. S1** for detailed comparisons across

sleep stages and frequencies. Wake, wakefulness. SWS, slow-wave sleep. Light, light NREM sleep.

REM, REM sleep. **e**, Summary of significant differences in the CSF frequency profiles across

different sleep stages. The values indicate the ranges of frequencies where significant differences

were found by cluster-based permutation tests ($Ps < 0.05$) among sleep stages. The fast component

dominates slow-wave sleep (blue), whereas REM sleep shows a mixture of slow and very fast

components (red). The slow components dominate light NREM sleep (green). Wake, wakefulness.

SWS, slow-wave sleep. Light, light NREM sleep. REM, REM sleep.

Fig. 2: Sleep-specific brain oscillations induce faster and milder CSF dynamics during slow-

wave sleep. a, Example slow waves (top) and sleep spindles (bottom) detected from the frontal

and central electrodes in a representative data. **b,** Intervals of slow waves (left) and sleep spindles

(right) during light NREM (green) and slow-wave sleep (blue). Two-tailed paired t-tests, $*P < 0.05$,

$****P < 0.001$. LN, light NREM sleep. SWS, slow-wave sleep. **c,** CSF signal changes during light

NREM sleep time-locked to the onset of slow waves (light green) and sleep spindles (dark green).

The horizontal bars (light green, slow waves; dark green, spindles) indicate statistical significance

compared with zero baselines via two-tailed one-sample t-tests (FDR corrected, $Ps < 0.05$). **d,** CSF

signal changes during slow-wave sleep time-locked to the onset of slow waves (light blue) and

sleep spindles (dark blue). The horizontal bars (light blue: slow waves; dark blue: spindles)

indicate statistical significance compared with zero baselines via two-tailed one-sample t-tests

(FDR corrected $Ps < 0.05$). **e,** Peak amplitudes of CSF signals during light NREM (green) and

slow-wave sleep (blue) induced by slow waves. Two-tailed paired t-tests, $****P < 0.001$. SWS,

slow-wave sleep. **f,** Peak latencies of CSF signals during light NREM (green) and slow-wave sleep

(blue) induced by slow waves. Two-tailed paired t-tests, $****P < 0.001$. See **Supplementary Fig.**

S2 for the relationship between the CSF and GM signals. SWS, slow-wave sleep.

Fig. 3: REM sleep events induce changes in CSF dynamics. a, Examples of horizontal (Hor)

and vertical (Ver) rapid eye movements (top) and sawtooth waves (bottom) detected from the

frontal electrodes. **b,** Intervals of rapid eye movements (REMs), sawtooth waves (STWs) and all

REM sleep events (All). **c,** CSF signal changes time-locked to the onset of REM sleep events. The

horizontal bars represent statistical significance against zero baselines according to two-tailed one-

sample t-tests (FDR-corrected $P < 0.05$). **d,** GM signal changes time-locked to the onset of REM

sleep events. The horizontal bars represent statistical significance against zero baselines according

to two-tailed one-sample t-tests (FDR-corrected $P < 0.05$). **e**, Cross-correlation between CSF and

GM signal changes time-locked to all REM events including rapid eye movements and sawtooth

waves.

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Fig. 4: Arousals induce large CSF changes during sleep. a, Example of an epoch containing an

arousal event (red). The embedded diagram shows an EEG spectrogram (O1 and O2 electrodes

averaged) during arousal events (number of samples = 50 sleep sessions), indicating EEG

activations across a wide range of frequency bands. **b,** Number of arousals during light NREM

sleep, slow-wave sleep and REM sleep stages. Two-tailed paired *t*-tests with Bonferroni correction,

****$Ps < 0.001$. **c,** CSF signal changes time-locked to arousal events for each sleep stage. The

horizontal bars indicate significance against zero baselines via two-tailed one-sample *t*-tests (FDR-

corrected $Ps < 0.05$). Because the majority of arousals occurred from light NREM sleep (as

indicated in **b**), the plot for light NREM sleep (light green) and that for all arousal events (black)

overlap. **d,** GM signal changes time-locked to arousal events. The horizontal bars indicate

significance against zero baselines via two-tailed one-sample t-tests (FDR-corrected $Ps < 0.05$).

As in **c**, because the majority of arousals occurred from light NREM sleep, the plot for light NREM

sleep (light green) and that for all arousal events (black) overlap. **e,** CSF signal changes to arousal

(black), slow waves during light NREM sleep (green, same as **Fig. 2c**), and slow waves during

slow-wave sleep (blue, same as **Fig. 2d**). The horizontal bars indicate significance against zero

baselines via two-tailed one-sample t-tests (FDR-corrected $Ps < 0.05$). **f,** GM signal changes to

arousal (black), slow waves during light NREM sleep (green), and slow waves during slow-wave

sleep (blue). The horizontal bars indicate significance against zero baselines via two-tailed one-

sample t-tests (FDR-corrected $Ps < 0.05$). **g,** Peak amplitudes of CSF signals induced by slow

waves during light NREM sleep (green), slow-wave sleep (blue), and arousal (black). Two-tailed

paired t-tests with Bonferroni correction, ****$Ps < 0.001$). The plots for light NREM and slow-

wave sleep are the same as those in **Fig. 2e**. **h,** Mean latencies to reach the peak CSF signals

induced by slow waves during light NREM sleep (green), slow-wave sleep (blue), and arousal

(black). The plots for light NREM and slow-wave sleep are the same as those in **Fig. 2f**. Two-

tailed paired t-tests with Bonferroni correction, ****$Ps < 0.001$. SWS, slow-wave sleep.

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Fig. 5: Sensory and motor regions are recruited during light sleep, whereas plasticity and

homeostatic circuits dominate deep sleep. A generalized linear model (GLM) analysis was

performed on the MRI data corresponding to each event. A cluster-based statistical analysis was

conducted at the group level, with the cluster-defining threshold ($Z > 3.1$) corrected at $P < 0.05$.

Left, lateral view of the left hemisphere of a cortical surface in an inflated format. Middle, medial

view of the left hemisphere of a cortical surface in an inflated format. Right, subcortical areas. The

red highlighted areas in the first row indicate the areas that significantly increased during slow

waves in light NREM sleep compared with those in slow-wave sleep. The red highlighted areas in

the second row indicate the areas that significantly increased during slow waves in slow-wave

sleep compared with those in light NREM sleep. The red highlighted areas in the third row indicate

the areas that increased significantly with rapid eye movements during REM sleep. The red

highlighted areas in the fourth row indicate the areas that increased significantly in response to

arousals. Light NREM sleep induces sensory and motor regions, whereas slow-wave sleep induces

regions involved in plasticity and homeostatic circuits. REM sleep recruits visual and plasticity

circuits. Arousals accompany widespread brain activation.

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1029 **Fig. 6: An illustration of the hypothetical relationships between CSF and brain circuits**

1030 **during light and deep human sleep.** During light sleep (left), CSF oscillations are characterized

1031 by intermittent sharp peaks induced by arousals or arousal-related waves (K-complexes). During

1032 deep sleep (right), CSF oscillations become faster, but their amplitudes are low (mild). These faster

1033 CSF oscillations are induced by sleep-related brain oscillations.

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Supplementary Note

The control analyses for the fourth ventricle CSF signals

Since previous research used a peak voxel inside the fourth ventricle to extract CSF signals (Fultz et al., 2019; Gonzalez-Castillo et al., 2022; Picchioni et al., 2022), in this control analysis, the same approach was applied to confirm that our findings are not limited to the lateral ventricles. However, as opposed to the previous studies (Fultz et al., 2019; Gonzalez-Castillo et al., 2022; Picchioni et al., 2022) whose MRI scan slice alignment was set up by placing the boundary edge of the imaging volume at the fourth ventricle, our MRI scan slice alignment was not optimized to the fourth ventricle CSF signals. Thus, the averaged CSF signals inside the fourth ventricle were also used to examine the CSF signal frequency profiles across different depths of sleep for this validation.

The fourth ventricle was extracted as a region of interest (ROI) from each individual participant's anatomical image. The fMRI signals were motion-corrected and slice-timing corrected using AFNI (https://afni.nimh.nih.gov) and RIKEN fMRI processing programs (http://www.fmri.brain.riken.jp/~mri/Software.html). Furthermore, the fMRI data were denoised using cardiac and respiration signals (Glover et al., 2000; Hu et al., 1995). Then, the fourth ventricle ROI images were registered to each fMRI image using FSL FLIRT (https://fsl.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl/fslwiki/FLIRT), and the fMRI signals were z-score transformed, and averaged across the voxels inside the ROI as the averaged fourth ventricle CSF signal for each sleep session and each participant.

The location of the peak voxel inside the fourth ventricle was determined by identifying the maximum intensity of the CSF signals inside the fourth ventricle. Then, the CSF signal was extracted from the peak voxel inside the fourth ventricle and was z-score transformed for each

1058   sleep session and each participant. Periodic oscillation components were extracted from both

1059   averaged fourth ventricle CSF signals and peak voxel CSF signals in the same way as the lateral

1060   ventricle. The same non-parametric cluster-based permutation tests were used to find significant

1061   differences ($P < 0.05$) in the periodic power spectrum across different sleep stages in both averaged

1062   fourth ventricle CSF signals and peak voxel CSF signals in the same way as the lateral ventricles.

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Supplementary Table S1: Brain regions that significantly increased for slow waves during light NREM sleep than during slow-wave sleep.

ROIs	*Z* values	*P* values
Cingulate_Mid_L	3.8082	0.0002
Cingulate_Mid_R	3.6531	0.0002
Cingulate_Post_L	3.6264	0.0002
Cingulate_Post_R	3.3095	0.0006
Calcarine_L	3.7446	0.0002
Calcarine_R	3.6056	0.0003
Cuneus_L	3.7074	0.0003
Cuneus_R	3.5805	0.0003
Lingual_L	3.7504	0.0002
Lingual_R	3.7962	0.0003
Occipital_Sup_L	3.5848	0.0003
Occipital_Sup_R	3.5587	0.0003
Occipital_Mid_L	3.8243	0.0002
Occipital_Mid_R	3.6286	0.0003
Occipital_Inf_L	3.8286	0.0002
Occipital_Inf_R	3.5069	0.0004
Fusiform_L	3.5723	0.0003
Fusiform_R	3.2599	0.0006
Postcentral_L	3.7671	0.0002
Parietal_Sup_L	3.6435	0.0003
Parietal_Sup_R	3.9973	0.0002
Parietal_Inf_L	3.4056	0.0004
Parietal_Inf_R	3.3055	0.0005
Angular_L	3.4215	0.0004
Angular_R	3.4098	0.0005
Precuneus_L	4.1504	0.0001
Precuneus_R	3.7021	0.0003
Paracentral_Lobule_L	3.3912	0.0005
Temporal_Mid_L	3.5801	0.0003
Temporal_Mid_R	3.7628	0.0002
Temporal_Inf_L	3.7744	0.0002
Temporal_Inf_R	3.7552	0.0002
Cerebellum_Crus1_L	3.6657	0.0003
Cerebellum_Crus1_R	3.1931	0.0007
Cerebellum_4_5_L	3.5464	0.0003
Cerebellum_4_5_R	3.3023	0.0006
Cerebellum_6_L	3.6276	0.0001
Cerebellum_6_R	3.4245	0.0004
Vermis_4_5	3.5228	0.0003

Each ROI label is in accordance with the automated anatomical atlas 3 (Rolls et al., 2020). L, left hemisphere. R, right

hemisphere.	1065
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Supplementary Table S2: Brain regions that significantly increased for slow waves during slow-wave sleep than during light NREM sleep.

ROIs	*Z* values	*P* values
Precentral_L	3.7206	0.0003
Precentral_R	3.7044	0.0003
Frontal_Sup_2_L	3.6866	0.0003
Frontal_Sup_2_R	3.9108	0.0002
Frontal_Mid_2_L	3.3904	0.0004
Frontal_Mid_2_R	3.3258	0.0005
Frontal_Inf_Oper_L	4.3669	0.0001
Frontal_Inf_Oper_R	4.0255	0.0002
Frontal_Inf_Tri_L	4.1318	0.0002
Frontal_Inf_Tri_R	3.8356	0.0002
Frontal_Inf_Orb_2_L	4.1623	0.0001
Frontal_Inf_Orb_2_R	4.2988	0.0002
Rolandic_Oper_L	3.5048	0.0003
Rolandic_Oper_R	3.6381	0.0003
Supp_Motor_Area_L	3.9727	0.0002
Supp_Motor_Area_R	3.9846	0.0002
Olfactory_L	3.4511	0.0004
Olfactory_R	3.7452	0.0003
Frontal_Sup_Medial_L	3.9463	0.0002
Frontal_Sup_Medial_R	4.0646	0.0002
Frontal_Med_Orb_L	3.9534	0.0002
Frontal_Med_Orb_R	4.3550	0.0001
Rectus_L	3.8079	0.0003
Rectus_R	3.5458	0.0003
OFCmed_L	3.4402	0.0005
OFCmed_R	3.2660	0.0006
OFCant_L	3.4433	0.0004
OFCpost_L	3.9637	0.0002
OFCpost_R	4.0323	0.0002
OFClat_L	3.2987	0.0005
OFClat_R	3.2841	0.0005
Insula_L	4.5075	0.0001
Insula_R	4.4756	0.0001
Cingulate_Mid_L	3.6854	0.0003
Cingulate_Mid_R	3.8998	0.0002
Hippocampus_L	4.0146	0.0001
Hippocampus_R	3.7427	0.0002
ParaHippocampal_L	3.6645	0.0003
ParaHippocampal_R	3.7434	0.0002
Amygdala_L	4.0651	0.0001
Amygdala_R	3.6975	0.0002

ROI	Value	p	
Fusiform_L	3.5528	0.0003	1072
Postcentral_L	3.5753	0.0003	1073
Postcentral_R	3.8108	0.0003	1074
Parietal_Inf_L	3.3066	0.0005	1075
SupraMarginal_L	3.4942	0.0004	1076
SupraMarginal_R	3.8776	0.0002	1077
Paracentral_Lobule_L	3.4346	0.0004	1078
Caudate_L	3.5091	0.0003	1079
Caudate_R	3.4317	0.0004	1080
Putamen_L	3.6246	0.0003	1081
Putamen_R	3.7300	0.0003	1082
Pallidum_L	3.2837	0.0006	1083
Temporal_Sup_L	3.5406	0.0003	1084
Temporal_Pole_Sup_L	3.7996	0.0002	1085
Temporal_Pole_Sup_R	3.7752	0.0002	1086
Temporal_Pole_Mid_L	3.4469	0.0004	1087
ACC_sub_L	3.6190	0.0003	1088
ACC_sub_R	3.6659	0.0002	1089
ACC_pre_L	4.2652	0.0001	1090
ACC_pre_R	4.4827	0.0001	1091
ACC_sup_L	3.6695	0.0003	1092
ACC_sup_R	3.9976	0.0002	1093
N_Acc_L	3.5404	0.0003	
N_Acc_R	3.5088	0.0003	

Each ROI label is in accordance with the automated anatomical atlas 3 (Rolls et al., 2020). L, left hemisphere. R, right hemisphere.

Supplementary Table S3: Brain regions that significantly increased for rapid eye movements during REM sleep.

ROIs	*Z* values	*P* values
Supp_Motor_Area_L	3.2030	0.0007
Hippocampus_L	3.4546	0.0004
Hippocampus_R	3.7187	0.0002
ParaHippocampal_L	3.3809	0.0004
ParaHippocampal_R	3.9307	0.0002
Calcarine_L	3.3290	0.0005
Calcarine_R	3.4544	0.0004
Lingual_L	3.3523	0.0005
Lingual_R	3.4621	0.0004
Occipital_Sup_L	3.2501	0.0006
Cerebellum_3_L	3.2661	0.0006
Cerebellum_3_R	3.1315	0.0009
Cerebellum_4_5_L	3.6211	0.0002
Cerebellum_4_5_R	3.3396	0.0005
Cerebellum_6_L	3.2634	0.0006
Cerebellum_6_R	3.3340	0.0005
Cerebellum_9_L	3.1488	0.0008
Vermis_1_2	3.2139	0.0007
Vermis_3	3.5091	0.0004
Vermis_4_5	3.4872	0.0004
Vermis_6	3.3777	0.0005
Vermis_10	3.1045	0.0010
Thal_VA_L	3.3155	0.0005
Thal_VA_R	3.2629	0.0006
Thal_VL_L	3.6201	0.0003
Thal_VL_R	3.6587	0.0003
Thal_VPL_L	3.5085	0.0004
Thal_VPL_R	3.5499	0.0003
Thal_IL_L	3.9072	0.0002
Thal_IL_R	4.2275	0.0000
Thal_MDm_L	3.8869	0.0002
Thal_MDm_R	3.7111	0.0003
Thal_MDl_L	4.0575	0.0001
Thal_MDl_R	3.7768	0.0002
Thal_LGN_L	3.3645	0.0004
Thal_LGN_R	3.2806	0.0006
Thal_MGN_L	3.3011	0.0005
Thal_MGN_R	3.5171	0.0003
Thal_Pul_L	3.2652	0.0006
Thal_Pul_R	3.2704	0.0006
Thal_PuM_L	3.4233	0.0004
Thal_PuM_R	3.5812	0.0003

Thal_PuA_L	3.6875	0.0002	1094
Thal_PuA_R	3.7081	0.0002	1095
Thal_PuL_L	3.2427	0.0006	1096
Thal_PuL_R	3.3158	0.0005	1097
VTA_R	3.1182	0.0009	1098
SN_pc_L	3.1993	0.0007	1099
SN_pc_R	3.4885	0.0004	1100
SN_pr_L	3.2564	0.0006	1101
SN_pr_R	3.4536	0.0004	1102
Red_N_L	3.4694	0.0003	1103
			1104
Red_N_R	3.6793	0.0002	1105
Raphe_D	3.4396	0.0004	1106

Each ROI label is in accordance with the automated anatomical atlas 3 (Rolls et al., 2020). L, left hemisphere. R, right hemisphere.

Supplementary Table S4: Brain regions that significantly increased for arousals.

ROIs	*Z* values	*P* values
Frontal_Sup_2_R	3.6E+00	3.4E-04
Frontal_Mid_2_L	3.7E+00	3.5E-04
Frontal_Mid_2_R	3.6E+00	2.7E-04
Frontal_Inf_Oper_L	3.7E+00	2.4E-04
Frontal_Inf_Oper_R	3.6E+00	1.9E-04
Frontal_Inf_Orb_2_L	4.3E+00	8.3E-05
Frontal_Inf_Orb_2_R	4.3E+00	1.5E-04
Rolandic_Oper_L	3.2E+00	6.8E-04
Rolandic_Oper_R	3.3E+00	5.0E-04
Supp_Motor_Area_L	3.8E+00	2.2E-04
Supp_Motor_Area_R	3.6E+00	2.8E-04
Olfactory_L	3.9E+00	1.9E-04
Olfactory_R	4.0E+00	1.7E-04
Frontal_Sup_Medial_L	3.5E+00	3.4E-04
Frontal_Med_Orb_R	3.8E+00	6.8E-05
Rectus_L	3.9E+00	1.5E-04
Rectus_R	4.0E+00	1.8E-04
OFCmed_L	3.4E+00	3.9E-04
OFCmed_R	3.5E+00	3.0E-04
OFCant_L	3.9E+00	1.5E-04
OFCant_R	4.0E+00	1.6E-04
OFCpost_L	3.6E+00	3.9E-04
OFCpost_R	3.7E+00	9.3E-05
Insula_L	3.9E+00	2.1E-04
Insula_R	3.7E+00	2.5E-04
Cingulate_Mid_L	3.9E+00	2.0E-04
Cingulate_Mid_R	3.9E+00	2.0E-04
Cingulate_Post_L	4.3E+00	9.7E-05
Cingulate_Post_R	4.0E+00	1.4E-04
Hippocampus_L	4.1E+00	1.4E-04
Hippocampus_R	4.4E+00	1.0E-04
ParaHippocampal_L	4.0E+00	1.9E-04
ParaHippocampal_R	4.3E+00	1.2E-04
Amygdala_L	4.2E+00	1.1E-04
Amygdala_R	5.0E+00	3.1E-05
Calcarine_R	3.7E+00	2.0E-04
Cuneus_R	3.8E+00	1.7E-04
Lingual_L	3.7E+00	2.7E-04
Lingual_R	4.1E+00	1.3E-04
Occipital_Sup_L	3.6E+00	2.5E-04
Occipital_Sup_R	3.2E+00	7.4E-04
Occipital_Inf_L	3.7E+00	2.1E-04

Fusiform_L	3.8E+00	2.2E-04
Fusiform_R	4.3E+00	1.2E-04
Parietal_Sup_L	3.5E+00	3.7E-04
Parietal_Inf_L	3.4E+00	2.8E-04
SupraMarginal_R	3.1E+00	9.2E-04
Angular_L	3.3E+00	5.1E-04
Precuneus_L	3.6E+00	3.1E-04
Precuneus_R	3.7E+00	2.7E-04
Paracentral_Lobule_L	3.8E+00	2.5E-04
Paracentral_Lobule_R	3.7E+00	3.0E-04
Caudate_L	4.6E+00	8.3E-05
Caudate_R	5.1E+00	2.1E-05
Putamen_L	4.9E+00	3.9E-05
Putamen_R	4.9E+00	4.3E-05
Pallidum_L	4.7E+00	7.7E-05
Pallidum_R	4.6E+00	3.0E-05
Heschl_R	3.3E+00	5.8E-04
Temporal_Sup_L	3.4E+00	4.4E-04
Temporal_Sup_R	3.6E+00	3.7E-04
Temporal_Pole_Sup_L	3.3E+00	5.8E-04
Temporal_Pole_Sup_R	3.5E+00	3.3E-04
Temporal_Mid_L	3.5E+00	4.4E-04
Temporal_Mid_R	3.4E+00	3.5E-04
Temporal_Inf_L	3.9E+00	2.4E-04
Temporal_Inf_R	3.8E+00	2.4E-04
Cerebellum_Crus1_L	4.7E+00	6.1E-05
Cerebellum_Crus1_R	4.3E+00	1.2E-04
Cerebellum_Crus2_L	4.0E+00	1.8E-04
Cerebellum_Crus2_R	4.1E+00	1.4E-04
Cerebellum_3_L	4.6E+00	6.3E-05
Cerebellum_3_R	4.4E+00	9.7E-05
Cerebellum_4_5_L	4.7E+00	6.0E-05
Cerebellum_4_5_R	4.8E+00	5.6E-05
Cerebellum_6_L	4.7E+00	6.7E-05
Cerebellum_6_R	4.7E+00	6.1E-05
Cerebellum_7b_L	3.6E+00	2.8E-04
Cerebellum_8_L	3.7E+00	2.6E-04
Cerebellum_8_R	3.7E+00	2.9E-04
Cerebellum_9_L	3.7E+00	2.4E-04
Cerebellum_9_R	3.5E+00	3.6E-04
Cerebellum_10_L	3.6E+00	3.6E-04
Cerebellum_10_R	3.7E+00	2.0E-04
Vermis_1_2	4.2E+00	8.7E-05
Vermis_3	4.0E+00	1.4E-04
Vermis_4_5	5.3E+00	1.7E-05

Vermis_6	5.6E+00	8.2E-06
Vermis_7	4.8E+00	1.2E-05
Vermis_8	4.7E+00	7.9E-05
Vermis_9	4.1E+00	1.2E-04
Vermis_10	3.5E+00	3.5E-04
Thal_AV_L	5.6E+00	7.0E-06
Thal_AV_R	5.1E+00	5.5E-05
Thal_LP_L	3.8E+00	2.0E-04
Thal_LP_R	3.7E+00	2.4E-04
Thal_VA_L	5.6E+00	2.8E-07
Thal_VA_R	5.9E+00	1.4E-06
Thal_VL_L	5.3E+00	7.3E-06
Thal_VL_R	5.6E+00	1.0E-05
Thal_VPL_L	4.5E+00	7.5E-05
Thal_VPL_R	4.6E+00	7.5E-05
Thal_IL_L	4.6E+00	5.1E-05
Thal_IL_R	4.7E+00	1.8E-05
Thal_Re_L	5.2E+00	6.4E-07
Thal_Re_R	5.3E+00	5.5E-08
Thal_MDm_L	5.7E+00	1.6E-06
Thal_MDm_R	5.6E+00	1.5E-06
Thal_MDl_L	5.6E+00	3.2E-07
Thal_MDl_R	5.3E+00	1.3E-07
Thal_LGN_L	3.2E+00	6.3E-04
Thal_LGN_R	3.9E+00	1.3E-04
Thal_MGN_L	3.3E+00	5.1E-04
Thal_MGN_R	3.6E+00	3.1E-04
Thal_Pul_L	3.5E+00	2.3E-04
Thal_PuM_L	4.0E+00	1.5E-04
Thal_PuM_R	4.4E+00	1.1E-04
Thal_PuA_L	4.4E+00	4.6E-05
Thal_PuA_R	4.2E+00	8.6E-05
Thal_PuL_L	4.1E+00	1.0E-04
Thal_PuL_R	3.8E+00	2.1E-04
ACC_sub_L	3.7E+00	3.8E-04
ACC_sub_R	3.8E+00	1.9E-04
ACC_pre_L	3.5E+00	3.4E-04
ACC_pre_R	3.6E+00	2.9E-04
ACC_sup_L	4.5E+00	7.4E-05
ACC_sup_R	4.1E+00	1.4E-04
N_Acc_L	4.7E+00	6.6E-05
N_Acc_R	5.0E+00	2.2E-05
VTA_L	5.4E+00	1.2E-06
VTA_R	5.0E+00	1.9E-06
SN_pc_L	4.8E+00	4.4E-05

SN_pc_R	4.9E+00	4.9E-06	1119
SN_pr_L	4.3E+00	7.6E-05	1120
SN_pr_R	4.8E+00	3.1E-05	1121
Red_N_L	4.1E+00	1.7E-04	1122
Red_N_R	3.9E+00	1.8E-04	1123
LC_L	4.2E+00	6.4E-05	1124
LC_R	4.0E+00	2.8E-04	1125
Raphe_D	4.5E+00	7.5E-05	1126
Raphe_M	4.6E+00	1.3E-05	1127

Each ROI label is in accordance with the automated anatomical
atlas 3 (Rolls et al., 2020). L, left hemisphere. R, right
hemisphere.

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Supplementary Table S5: Brain regions that increased significantly for sleep spindles during light NREM sleep than during slow-wave sleep.

ROIs	*Z* values	*P* values
Precentral_L	3.4296	0.0004
Precentral_R	3.4019	0.0004
Frontal_Sup_2_R	3.1556	0.0008
Frontal_Mid_2_R	3.1447	0.0008
Frontal_Inf_Oper_L	3.4841	0.0005
Rolandic_Oper_L	3.6361	0.0003
Rolandic_Oper_R	3.4432	0.0004
Supp_Motor_Area_L	3.4196	0.0004
Supp_Motor_Area_R	3.3864	0.0004
Frontal_Sup_Medial_L	3.2095	0.0007
Insula_L	3.5361	0.0003
Insula_R	3.6424	0.0003
Cingulate_Mid_L	3.4839	0.0003
Cingulate_Mid_R	3.5164	0.0003
Postcentral_L	3.4082	0.0004
Postcentral_R	3.3369	0.0005
SupraMarginal_L	3.3497	0.0005
SupraMarginal_R	3.3474	0.0004
Precuneus_L	3.2277	0.0007
Precuneus_R	3.2651	0.0006
Paracentral_Lobule_L	3.3886	0.0004
Paracentral_Lobule_R	3.4239	0.0004
Putamen_R	3.5491	0.0003
Heschl_L	3.7458	0.0002
Heschl_R	3.7344	0.0002
Temporal_Sup_L	3.6067	0.0003
Temporal_Sup_R	3.5031	0.0003
Temporal_Pole_Sup_L	3.5521	0.0003
Temporal_Pole_Sup_R	3.3365	0.0005
Temporal_Mid_L	3.4501	0.0004
Temporal_Mid_R	3.1425	0.0008
ACC_sup_L	3.3683	0.0004
ACC_sup_R	3.2987	0.0005

Each ROI label is in accordance with the automated anatomical atlas 3 (Rolls et al., 2020). L, left hemisphere. R, right hemisphere.

Supplementary Table S6: Brain regions that increased significantly for sleep spindles during slow-wave sleep than during light NREM sleep.

ROIs	*Z* values	*P* values
ParaHippocampal_R	3.2843	0.0005
Calcarine_R	3.7146	0.0003
Cuneus_L	3.3800	0.0005
Cuneus_R	3.5743	0.0003
Lingual_R	3.2666	0.0006
Occipital_Sup_L	3.2750	0.0006
Fusiform_R	3.2916	0.0006
Parietal_Sup_L	3.3117	0.0005
Parietal_Sup_R	3.2652	0.0006
Precuneus_L	3.2913	0.0006
Precuneus_R	3.7949	0.0002
Cerebellum_Crus1_R	3.2078	0.0007
Cerebellum_3_R	3.2160	0.0007
Cerebellum_4_5_R	3.3673	0.0005
Cerebellum_6_R	3.3231	0.0005

Each ROI label is in accordance with the automated anatomical atlas 3 (Rolls et al., 2020). L, left hemisphere. R, right hemisphere.

Supplementary Table S7: Brain regions that increased significantly for sawtooth waves during REM sleep.

ROIs	Z values	P values
Frontal_Inf_Oper_R	3.2735	0.0005
Calcarine_L	3.2675	0.0006
Lingual_L	3.2436	0.0006
Paracentral_Lobule_R	3.1408	0.0008
Heschl_L	3.1726	0.0008
Vermis_9	3.2986	0.0005
Thal_VPL_L	3.1857	0.0007
Thal_PuM_L	3.2213	0.0007
Thal_PuL_L	3.2732	0.0005

Each ROI label is in accordance with the automated anatomical atlas 3 (Rolls et al., 2020). L, left hemisphere. R, right hemisphere.

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Supplementary Fig. S1: Comparisons of periodic CSF signal power spectrum against each

frequency bin across different sleep depths. a, Wakefulness vs. light NREM sleep. **b**,

Wakefulness vs. slow-wave sleep. **c**, Wakefulness vs. REM sleep. **d**, Light NREM sleep vs.

slow-wave sleep. **e**, Light NREM sleep vs. REM sleep. **f**, Slow-wave sleep vs. REM sleep.

Cluster-based permutation results for possible pairs were conducted. The horizontal bars

represent a significant cluster (horizontal bars, cluster-based permutation tests, *Ps* < 0.05). SWS,

slow-wave sleep.

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Supplementary Fig. S2: Relationship between CSF and GM signal. a, Cross-correlation

between CSF and GM signals. CSF and GM signals were generally anti-correlated. **b**, GM signal

variances during different sleep stages. GM signal changes were significantly smaller during

slow-wave sleep than during wakefulness (P = 3.2017e-05), light NREM sleep (P < 1e-10) or

REM sleep (P = 1.9815e-06). SWS, slow-wave sleep. Two-tailed paired t-test with Bonferroni

correction, ****P < 0.001

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1226 **Supplementary Fig. S3: Periodic CSF frequency profiles obtained from the fourth**

1227 **ventricles (a) and the peak voxel of the fourth ventricles (b).** SWS, slow-wave sleep. See

1228 *Supplementary Note* for more details.

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Supplementary Fig. S4: CSF signals obtained from the fourth ventricles. Comparisons of the

spectrum against each frequency bin across different sleep depths. **a**, Wakefulness vs. light

NREM sleep. **b**, Wakefulness vs. slow-wave sleep. **c**, Wakefulness vs. REM sleep. **d**, Light

NREM sleep vs. slow-wave sleep. **e**, Light NREM sleep vs. REM sleep. **f**, Slow-wave sleep vs.

REM sleep. Cluster-based permutation results for possible pairs were conducted. The horizontal

1238   bars represent a significant cluster (horizontal bars, cluster-based permutation tests, $Ps < 0.05$).

1239   SWS, slow-wave sleep.

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Supplementary Fig. S5: CSF signals obtained from the peak voxel in the fourth ventricles.

Comparisons of the spectrum against each frequency bin across different sleep depths. **a**, Wakefulness vs. light NREM sleep. **b**, Wakefulness vs. slow-wave sleep. **c**, Wakefulness vs. REM sleep. **d**, Light NREM sleep vs. slow-wave sleep. **e**, Light NREM sleep vs. REM sleep. **f**, Slow-wave sleep vs. REM sleep. Cluster-based permutation results for possible pairs were

1248   conducted. The horizontal bars represent a significant cluster (horizontal bars, cluster-based

1249   permutation tests, $Ps < 0.05$). SWS, slow-wave sleep.

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Supplementary Fig. S6: GM signal changes time-locked to slow waves and sleep spindles. a,

GM signal amplitude changes time-locked to slow waves (light green) and sleep spindles (dark

green) during light NREM sleep. The horizontal bars (light green: slow waves; dark green, sleep

spindles) indicate significances against zero baselines using two-tailed one-sample t-tests, (FDR

corrected, *Ps* < 0.05). **b**, GM signal amplitude changes time-locked to slow waves (light blue)

and sleep spindles (dark blue) during slow-wave sleep. The horizontal bar (light blue, slow

waves) indicates significances against zero baselines using two-tailed one-sample t-tests, (FDR

corrected, *Ps* < 0.05). **c**, Cross-correlation between CSF and GM signals time-locked to slow

waves. Green, light NREM sleep. Blue, slow-waves sleep. **d**, Cross-correlation between CSF and

GM signals time-locked to sleep spindles. Green, light NREM sleep. Blue, slow-waves sleep.

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Supplementary Fig. S7: EEG topographical changes time-locked to CSF signal peaks

during light NREM (a) and slow-wave sleep (b). t=0s corresponds to the CSF signal peak.

EEG topographic map indicated a negative peak centered around the frontal region, resembling a

topography of K-complexes, which peaked 8 s *before* the CSF positive peak events during light

NREM sleep. A negative peak spread through the midline of frontal to parietal regions

resembling those found typically in slow waves (Adamantidis et al., 2019) which peaked around

5 s *before* the CSF positive peak events during slow-wave sleep. Note that slow waves during

slow-wave sleep were followed by a CSF peak 5.5s *after* the onset of the events. The plots for

CSF signals are the same as those in **Fig. 2c** and **d**.

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Supplementary Fig. S8: CSF and GM signal changes time-locked to events during REM

sleep. a, CSF signal changes to rapid eye movements (REMs). **b**, CSF signal changes to

sawtooth waves (STWs). The horizontal bar (orange, sawtooth waves) indicates significances

against zero baselines using two-tailed one-sample t-tests, (FDR corrected, *Ps* < 0.05). **c**, GM

signal changes to rapid eye movements (REMs). **d**, GM signal changes to sawtooth waves

(STWs).

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Supplementary Fig. S9: Comparisons of CSF and GM signal changes induced by slow

waves in different sleep depths and arousals. a–c, CSF signal changes time-locked to slow

waves during sleep and arousals. Green, light NREM sleep; blue, slow-wave sleep; black,

arousals. **d–f**, GM signal changes time-locked to slow waves during sleep and arousals. Green,

light NREM sleep, blue, slow-wave sleep, black, arousals. The horizontal bars (green: light

NREM; blue, slow-wave sleep; black: arousals) indicate significant differences between possible

pairs using two-tailed paired *t*-tests, (FDR corrected, *Ps* < 0.05). SWS, slow-wave sleep.

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Supplementary Fig. S10: Intervals of cardiac and respiratory cycles during sleep and

wakefulness. a, Intervals of cardiac cycles. The intervals of the cardiac cycles were significantly

longer during sleep than during wakefulness (light NREM sleep vs. wakefulness: $P = 6.80\text{e-}12$;

Slow-wave sleep vs. wakefulness: $P = 7.85\text{e-}07$; REM sleep vs. wakefulness: $P = 5.31\text{e-}04$).

Slow-wave sleep had significantly longer intervals than light NREM ($P = 0.0011$). Two-tailed

paired *t*-tests with Bonferroni correction, ****P<.001, **P<.01. **b**, Intervals of respiratory

cycles. There was no significant difference in the intervals of respiratory cycles across sleep

stages. SWS, slow-wave sleep.

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1307 **Supplementary Fig. S11: Periodic frequency profiles obtained from the CSF (a) and GM**

1308 **(b) signals without denoising cardiac and respiration signal contaminations.**

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Supplementary Fig. S12: CSF signals without denoising cardiac and respiration signal

contaminations. Comparisons of the spectrum against each frequency bin across different sleep

depths. **a**, Wakefulness vs. light NREM sleep. **b**, Wakefulness vs. slow-wave sleep. **c**,

Wakefulness vs. REM sleep. **d**, Light NREM sleep vs. slow-wave sleep. **e**, Light NREM sleep

vs. REM sleep. **f**, Slow-wave sleep vs. REM sleep. Cluster-based permutation results for possible

1318   pairs were conducted. The horizontal bars represent a significant cluster (horizontal bars, cluster-

1319   based permutation tests, $Ps < 0.05$). SWS, slow-wave sleep.

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Supplementary Fig. S13: GM signals without denoising cardiac and respiration signal

contaminations. Comparisons of the spectrum against each frequency bin across different sleep

depths. **a**, Wakefulness vs. light NREM sleep. **b**, Wakefulness vs. slow-wave sleep. **c**,

Wakefulness vs. REM sleep. **d**, Light NREM sleep vs. slow-wave sleep. **e**, Light NREM sleep

vs. REM sleep. **f**, Slow-wave sleep vs. REM sleep. Cluster-based permutation results for possible

pairs were conducted. The horizontal bars represent a significant cluster (horizontal bars, cluster-

based permutation tests, *Ps* < 0.05). SWS, slow-wave sleep.

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Supplementary Fig. S14: Comparisons of CSF and GM signal changes induced by cardiac pulses and respirations vs. slow waves and sleep spindles in different sleep depths. We investigated the CSF signal changes time-locked to respiration and cardiac pulses in the same manner as in previous studies (Picchioni et al., 2022; Williams et al., 2023). **a–d**, CSF signal changes time-locked to each event onset during each sleep stage. **e–h**, GM signal changes time-

1338   locked to each event onset during each sleep stage. Magenta, cardiac pulses. Purple, respirations,

1339   Blue, slow waves, Green, spindles. SWS, slow-wave sleep.

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Supplementary Fig. S15: Periodic frequency profiles in the cardiac cycles (a) and the

respiration cycles (b). The power spectrum of the cardiac and respiration signals were measured

using the same analysis steps as the power spectrum analysis of fMRI data. There was a peak

power at around 1 Hz in the cardiac signals, whereas a peak power of around 0.3 Hz was

observed in the respiration signals in accordance with a previous study (Strik et al., 2002). Thus,

the cardiac and respirations had much higher frequency signals (>0.3Hz) that did not overlap

with the frequency range induced by sleep brain oscillations (0.06–0.15Hz, **Fig. 1d, e**).

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1353 **Supplementary Fig. S16: Head motion across different sleep depths.** Two-tailed paired *t*-tests

1354 with Bonferroni correction, **$P < 0.01$. SWS, slow-wave sleep.

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