

1 **Fine-grained mapping of cortical somatotopies in chronic Complex Regional Pain**
2 **Syndrome**

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18 ** Shared contribution*

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32 **Abstract**

33 It has long been thought that severe chronic pain conditions, such as Complex Regional
34 Pain Syndrome (CRPS), are not only associated with, but even maintained by a
35 reorganisation of the somatotopic representation of the affected limb in primary
36 somatosensory cortex (S1). This notion has driven treatments that aim to restore S1
37 representations, such as sensory discrimination training and mirror therapy. However,
38 this notion is based on both indirect and incomplete evidence obtained with imaging
39 methods with low spatial resolution. Here, we used functional MRI to characterize the S1
40 representation of the affected and unaffected hand in patients with unilateral CRPS. At
41 the group level, the cortical area, location, and geometry of the S1 representation of the
42 CRPS hand were largely comparable to those of the healthy hand and controls.
43 However, the area of the map of the affected hand was modulated by disease duration
44 (the smaller the map, the more chronic the CRPS), but not by pain intensity, pain
45 sensitivity and severity of the physical disability. Thus, if any map reorganization occurs,
46 it does not appear to be directly related to our pain measures. These findings compel us
47 to reconsider the cortical mechanisms underlying CRPS and the rationale for
48 interventions that aim to “restore” somatotopic representations to treat pain.

49

50 **Significance statement**

51

52 This study shows that the spatial map of the fingers in S1 is largely preserved in chronic
53 CRPS. Shrinkage of the area of the affected hand map can occur in the most chronic
54 stages of disease. Map shrinkage is related to CRPS duration rather than diagnosis, and
55 is unrelated to how much pain patients experience or to the severity of the physical
56 disability. These findings challenge the rationale for using sensory interventions to treat
57 pain by restoring somatotopic representations in CRPS patients.

58

59

60 Introduction

61 Chronic pain is a highly common and debilitating disorder, that can be associated with
62 functional and morphological changes in the brain. For instance, it has long been
63 thought that some severe chronic pain conditions, such as Complex Regional Pain
64 Syndrome (CRPS), are not only associated with, but even maintained by, maladaptive
65 topographic changes in the primary somatosensory cortex (S1) (Maihofner et al., 2003,
66 2004). Magneto- and electro-encephalography (MEG, EEG) studies have suggested that
67 the representation of the CRPS hand in S1 is abnormally smaller than the cortical
68 representation of the healthy hand (Juottonen et al., 2002; Maihofner et al., 2003; Pleger
69 et al., 2004; Vartiainen et al., 2008; Vartiainen et al., 2009). The notion of S1
70 reorganisation has been central to our understanding of the condition (Marinus et al.,
71 2011) and has driven physiotherapy interventions aimed at restoring sensorimotor
72 representations of CRPS limbs, such as mirror-visual feedback (McCabe et al., 2003;
73 Smart et al., 2016) and sensory discrimination training (Pleger et al., 2005; Moseley et
74 al., 2008a). Here, we revisit the notion of S1 reorganisation with the better tools that
75 modern functional MRI currently offers: high spatial resolution and phase encoded
76 methods that provide reliable and unbiased measures of the cortical somatotopy of the
77 hand (Mancini et al., 2012; Sanchez-Panchuelo et al., 2012; Kolasinski et al., 2016a).

78 In all previous studies on CRPS, the size of the hand map was estimated both *indirectly*
79 *and incompletely*: it was estimated by measuring the Euclidean distance between
80 activation loci of the thumb or index finger relative to that of the little finger. The
81 somatotopy of the full hand has never been characterized in CRPS patients. A more
82 reliable fMRI method for studying cortical topographic representations is based on
83 phase-encoded mapping, which reveals the spatial preference of cortical neural
84 populations (Serenó et al., 1995; Silver and Kastner, 2009; Sereno and Huang, 2014).
85 This method involves delivering a periodic sensory stimulus to different portions of the
86 receptive surface and evaluating which voxels selectively respond to the spatial
87 frequency of the stimulation. Voxels sensitive to the stimulus respond when the stimulus
88 passes through the preferred spatial location and decay as the stimulus moves away
89 (Chen et al., 2017). The response phase angle, extracted using a Fourier transform
90 (Mancini et al., 2012), indicates the location preference for each voxel—in other words,
91 the position of the receptive fields of the population of neurons sampled by the voxel.

92
93 Using phase-encoded mapping, we provide the first complete characterisation and
94 quantification of the representation of the fingers (i.e. with exclusion of the thumb) in
95 patients with chronic and unilateral CRPS to the upper limb. We tested whether the S1
96 representation of the fingertips of the affected hand was different from that of the healthy
97 hand of CRPS patients and from controls in terms of its spatial extent, location relative to
98 the central sulcus, and geometry (i.e. variability of the map gradients).

100 Materials and Methods

101

102 **Participants.** We recruited 20 adults with unilateral CRPS to the upper limb and 20
103 healthy controls (HC) matched for age, gender and handedness. Each participant gave
104 written informed consent to take part in the study. All experimental procedures were
105 carried out in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and approved by both the
106 Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of New South Wales (HC13214)
107 and by the Human Ethics Committee of the South Eastern Local Health District (HREC
108 10/051). Inclusion criteria for control participants were: (1) pain-free at that time of the
109 study; (2) no prior history of a significant chronic pain, psychiatric or medical disorder; (3)
110 no history of substance abuse. Inclusion criteria for CRPS patients were: (1) a diagnosis
111 of unilateral CRPS to the upper limb or hand according to the Budapest research criteria
112 (Harden et al., 2010); (2) CRPS duration greater than 3 months; (3) no history of
113 substance abuse and no psychiatric-comorbidities. Five of 40 participants were excluded
114 from the study due to the following problems: MRI scanner failure (subject #31) or
115 acquisition problems (#13, #15, #32) and a control participant reported pain to the wrist
116 on the day of scan (a median nerve compression was subsequently diagnosed, #42).
117 The demographic and clinical information of the remaining sample (Controls: n = 17;
118 CRPS to the left hand: n = 8; CRPS to the right hand: n = 10) is reported in Table 1.

119
120 **Clinical evaluation.** Patients were clinically evaluated according to the Budapest
121 research criteria (Harden et al., 2010) by a blinded assessor of the research team on the
122 first session of the study to confirm that the research criteria were met. As part of the
123 clinical and diagnostic assessment of CRPS, we assessed pressure pain thresholds
124 (PPT; kg/cm²) using a digital pressure algometer (Wagner instrument, Greenwich, USA)
125 on two sites of each hand: the thenar eminence and the third proximal interphalangeal
126 joint. Pain intensity was also rated using an 11-points Likert scale, where 0
127 corresponded to “no pain” and 10 indicated “the worst pain imaginable, like a red hot
128 poker through your eye”. The intensity of spontaneous pain in the upper limb was rated
129 in all patients immediately before, during and after the imaging session. Two control
130 participants reported discomfort and mild to moderate postural pain to the upper limb
131 during the scanning session (Table 1). Furthermore, the *QuickDash* (Disabilities of the
132 Arm, Shoulder and Hand) questionnaire was administered to all participants; the
133 *QuickDash* measures physical function and symptoms in people with musculoskeletal
134 disorders of the upper limb (Kennedy et al., 2011).

135
136 **Stimuli.** We used a customised stimulus (polypropylene probe with a rounded tip)
137 because CRPS skin physiology and symptoms (hand dystonia, pain) preclude the use of
138 conventional and automated mechanical stimulation for the prolonged time required
139 for phase-encoded mapping of the fingertips (approx. 40 minutes). For example, hand
140 dystonia makes it difficult to target the same skin regions with air-puffs throughout the
141 imaging session; this would have resulted in scan quality deterioration or early scan
142 termination. CRPS-related hyperhidrosis (i.e. excessive sweating) precludes the use of
143 electrical and vibrotactile stimulation for a long time.

144

145 All control participants reported the stimulus as being clearly detectable, neither painful
146 nor unpleasant, and similarly intense on the different fingers of the two hands. All
147 patients described the sensation that was elicited by stimulation of the unaffected
148 fingers, in similar terms to those used by the control participants. Patients described the
149 sensation that was elicited by stimulation of the affected fingers in a variety of ways;
150 “burning”, “tingling”, “pain”, “brushing like with a sharp object”, “horrible”, “itchy”,
151 “scraping”, “like a needle prick”, “electric shooting pain”. These terms are consistent with
152 the clinical phenomenon of allodynia.

153

154 Participants did not report systematic differences in stimulus perception across the
155 fingertips of the same hand. Pain intensity fluctuates over time in most chronic pain
156 conditions (including CRPS), even despite highly-controlled and reproducible stimulation
157 (Foss et al., 2006). However, such fluctuations are unlikely to confound our measures of
158 cortical somatotopy. Indeed, our analysis method allowed to dissect the magnitude of
159 the brain responses from their spatial organization. All our analyses did not focus on the
160 magnitude of the S1 responses, but on their spatial organisation, which is not
161 confounded by unavoidable fluctuations of perceived stimulus intensity in CRPS
162 patients.

163

164 **Procedure.** Each participant laid supine inside the scanner bore with both hands palm
165 upwards. Participant’s arms and hands were propped with cushions and pads to
166 minimise movements. The stimulus consisted of periodic stimulation of the fingertips of
167 both hands. In each stimulation cycle, the tips of the index, middle, ring, and little fingers
168 were successively stimulated using a customised probe (see below). Each fingertip was
169 stimulated for 6 s, and each cycle (four fingers x 6 s = 24 s) was interleaved by 6 s of
170 rest. Twelve cycles were administered in each of the four consecutive functional runs
171 (approx. 10 minutes each). Two trained experimenters stimulated the tips of homologous
172 fingers of the right and left hands simultaneously. The experimenters received auditory
173 cues through headphones, synchronising the location and timing of each stimulus. The
174 thumb was not stimulated to reduce scanning time and due to practical difficulties in
175 stimulating the thumb in succession to the other fingertips (patients could not keep the
176 hand open flat for prolonged periods of time).

177

178 Our choice of bilateral stimulation was motivated by the need to map the fingertips of
179 both hands in a single imaging session (several patients travelled from distant regions in
180 Australia). Importantly, our choice was grounded on neuroscientific evidence that there
181 are extremely limited trans-callosal connections between the hand representations of S1
182 in the primate brain (Jones and Hendry, 1980; Killackey et al., 1983). We note that some
183 studies have reported an inhibitory response to hand stimulation in ipsilateral S1
184 (Hlushchuk and Hari, 2006; Lipton et al., 2006; Klingner et al., 2011). The deactivation of
185 ipsilateral S1 is most likely mediated by an input that ascends the contralateral pathway
186 to a higher-order cortical area, crosses in the corpus callosum, and is then fed back to
187 area 3b in S1 (Lipton et al., 2006; Tommerdahl et al., 2006). Ipsilateral finger
188 representations are engaged in active movement, but not during somatosensory

189 processing (Berlot et al., 2018). Peripheral nerve injury can enhance activity in ipsilateral
190 S1 (Fornander et al., 2016), especially at the level of interneurons in laminae V and VI
191 (Pelled et al., 2009). Crucially, ipsilateral activations and deactivations in S1 are diffused
192 and not somatotopically specific (Helmich et al., 2005; Reed et al., 2011; Ann Stringer et
193 al., 2014; Geva et al., 2017). They can modulate the amplitude of the S1 response
194 (which is not of interest here), but there is no evidence that they affect the spatial
195 (somatotopic) organisation of the contralateral responses (Reed et al., 2011; Ann
196 Stringer et al., 2014; Geva et al., 2017). This is further confirmed by our preliminary
197 imaging data, in which we found that unilateral vs. bilateral fingertip mapping yielded
198 both greatly similar and highly reproducible fingertip maps in S1 (Figure 1). Therefore,
199 we considered bilateral finger stimulation as a resource-efficient method to map the S1
200 somatotopy of the fingers of both hands in a single imaging session, thus boosting
201 recruitment and compliance of CRPS patients.

202

203 **MRI acquisition.** Echoplanar images (1.5 mm³ isotropic resolution, 183 volumes/run, 32
204 axial slices, flip angle = 82°, TR = 2s) were collected in four runs on a Philips Achieva TX
205 3T MRI scanner using a 32-channel head coil. FreeSurfer
206 (<https://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/>) was used to reconstruct the cortical surface for each
207 subject from a structural T1 image (0.727×0.727 mm² in-plane, 0.75 mm thick slices, 250
208 slices, flip angle = 8°, TR = 6.318 ms). In four subjects (28, 29, 33, 34), structural T1
209 images were corrected for non-uniform intensity using the AFNI's tool '3dUnifize'
210 (<https://afni.nimh.nih.gov/>), before surface reconstruction, because these images
211 contained shading artefacts that could have affected segmentation.

212

213 **First-level MRI analyses.** All first-level analyses were performed by a researcher (FM)
214 blinded to the group condition (right CRPS, left CRPS, control). The first 3 volumes from
215 EPs were discarded from all analyses. Functional series were aligned and motion-
216 corrected using the AFNI program '3dvolreg'. Using this as a starting point, functional-to-
217 high resolution alignment was then refined using manual blink comparison using an
218 adaptation of Freesurfer's TkRegister implemented in csurf
219 (<http://www.cogsci.ucsd.edu/~sereno/tmp/dist/csurf/>). After linear trend removal, aligned
220 data from the four runs were raw-averaged, and then analysed using a fast Fourier
221 transform, computed for the time series at each voxel fraction (vertex): this resulted in
222 complex-valued signals with the phase angle and magnitude of the BOLD response at
223 each voxel. The phase angle is the measure of interest here, because it reflects the
224 spatial preference of a given voxel. Both Fourier and statistical analysis were performed
225 using csurf. No spatial smoothing was performed before statistical analyses. Very low
226 temporal frequencies and harmonics (< 0.005 Hz) were excluded because movement
227 artefacts dominate responses at these frequencies, a procedure virtually identical to
228 regressing out signals correlated with low frequency movements. High frequencies up to
229 the Nyquist limit were allowed (i.e. half the sampling rate); this corresponds to no use of
230 low pass filter. For display, a vector was generated whose amplitude is the square root
231 of the F-ratio calculated by comparing the signal amplitude at the stimulus frequency to
232 the signal at other noise frequencies and whose angle was the stimulus phase. To

233 minimize the effect of superficial veins on BOLD signal change, superficial points along
234 the surface normal to each vertex were disregarded (top 20% of the cortical thickness).

235

236 The F-ratio was subsequently corrected at $p < 0.01$ using a surface-based cluster
237 correction for multiple comparisons as implemented by `surfclust` and `randsurfclust` within
238 the `csurf` FreeSurfer framework (Hagler et al., 2006). The Fourier-transformed data were
239 then sampled onto the individual cortical surface. Using this statistical threshold, we cut
240 a label containing all vertices that showed a significant periodic response to finger
241 stimulation (see one example in Figure 7A) and was localised within S1 (i.e. within the
242 boundaries of areas 3a, 3b and 1, as estimated by the cortical parcellation tools
243 implemented in FreeSurfer). This label, or region of interest (ROI), is used as the input
244 for the analyses described in the next sections. The phase-encoded stimulation
245 procedure that we used is designed to map the hand region across fingers, not within
246 fingers (Sanchez-Panchuelo et al., 2012). Therefore, we could not derive accurate ROIs
247 for each finger in isolation. This is because voxels that are activated by more than one
248 finger are masked out. Furthermore, we did not derive ROIs for the different subdivisions
249 of S1 because a precise and reliable parcellation of the cortical surface at single-subject
250 level would require microstructural imaging.

251

252 In a few cases, we could not identify any ROI with a response to fingertip stimulation (no
253 response to either fingertip stimulation), even at uncorrected $p < 0.05$: subject #3, right
254 hemisphere (patient with right CRPS); subject #20, left hemisphere (right CRPS); subject
255 #24, left hemisphere (right CRPS); subject #28, left hemisphere (left CRPS); subject
256 #29, right hemisphere (left CRPS). These cases were excluded from further analysis.

257

258 ***Evaluation of hand map area.*** We calculated the surface area of the left- and right-
259 hand maps, from each participant ROI. This was done after resampling the phase maps
260 onto the original average brain volume, to control for inter-individual variability in brain
261 size. In order to increase statistical power, we pooled data from the two CRPS groups
262 and compared map area in the affected vs unaffected sides with both a frequentist and a
263 Bayesian mixed-effects ANOVAs with a within-subject factor 'side' (2-levels: affected,
264 unaffected) and a between-subjects factor 'group' (2-levels: controls, CRPS). In the
265 CRPS group, we tested whether the area of the maps of the affected and unaffected
266 hands could be explained using Bayesian linear regression models by the following
267 variables: (1) CRPS duration; (2) the severity of upper limb disability as measured by the
268 *QuickDash* score; (3) pain intensity rating collected during the imaging session; (4) a
269 severity score derived from the difference of PPT thresholds in the two hands as follows:

270

$$PP_{\text{severity}} = [(PPT_{\text{unaffected hand}} - PPT_{\text{affected hand}}) / PPT_{\text{unaffected hand}}] 100 \quad (1)$$

271

272

273 ***Evaluation of hand map location.*** We controlled for individual differences in brain
274 morphology as follows. We first inflated each participant's cortical surface to a sphere
275 and then non-linearly morphed it into alignment with an average spherical cortical
276 surface using FreeSurfer's tool `mri_surf2surf` (Fischl et al., 1999). This procedure

277 maximizes alignment between sulci (including the central sulcus), while minimizing
278 metric distortions across the surface. We resampled phase maps onto this average
279 spherical surface (Freesurfer's fsaverage) and calculated the location of the centroid of
280 the map on this average surface. We investigated whether the map centroid was
281 different across sides and groups, in two ways.

282

283 First, we tested whether the distribution of spherical coordinates was different across
284 conditions ('side' and 'group'). As a basis for this comparison, we used the Fisher
285 probability density function (Fisher, 1953), which is the spherical coordinate system
286 analogue of the Gaussian probability density function. This approach has been
287 commonly used in the field of paleomagnetism and has also been applied for the
288 analysis of direction data from diffusion tensor imaging (Hutchinson et al., 2012). We
289 calculated the F statistics for the null hypothesis that sample observations from two
290 groups are taken from the same population. The following equation was derived from
291 Watson (Watson, 1956; Hutchinson et al., 2012) and used to compare two groups with
292 N_1 and N_2 observed unit vectors and resultant vectors of length R_1 and R_2 respectively:

293

$$F_{2,2(N-2)} = (N - 2) \frac{(R_1 + R_2 - R)}{(N - R_1 - R_2)} \quad (2)$$

294

295 where $N = N_1 + N_2$ and R is the length of the resultant vector for the pooled direction
296 vector observations from both groups. The resultant vector sums of all observations, R_1 ,
297 R_2 , and R , are calculated as follows:

298

$$R = \sqrt{\left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i\right)^2 + \left(\sum_{i=1}^N y_i\right)^2 + \left(\sum_{i=1}^N z_i\right)^2} \quad (3)$$

299

300 where x_i , y_i , z_i are the coordinates of the map centroids for each participant.

301

302 We performed the following F contrasts, separately for each hemisphere: controls vs
303 patients with right CRPS and controls vs patients with left CRPS (four F tests in total).
304 The larger the value of F, the more different the two group mean directions. A p-value
305 was obtained using the appropriate degrees of freedom (2 and 2(N-2), respectively) and
306 critical probability level of 0.05. The F statistics for H_0 (no difference) and H_1 was used to
307 calculate the BF for each contrast, as follows (Held and Ott, 2018, equation 5):

308

$$BF_{(F)} = \frac{f_F(F(p)|H_0)}{f_F(F(p)|H_1)} \quad (4)$$

309

310 The F-based BF_{10} is simply equal to $1/BF_{(F)}$.

311

312 As a complementary measure of map location, we computed the geodesic distance, in
313 mm, between the map centroid and an arbitrary reference point located within the

314 concavity of the central sulcus (displayed in Figure 6C). Geodesic distances were
315 statistically compared using both a frequentist and a Bayesian mixed-effects ANOVA
316 with a within-subject factor 'side' (2-levels: affected, unaffected) and a between-subjects
317 factor 'group' (2-levels: controls, CRPS).

318

319 Note that we did not estimate the centroid of each finger representation because our
320 mapping method is not designed to reveal independent representations of individual
321 fingers, given that each finger is stimulated in succession. Future studies are required to
322 investigate finger-specific representations in CRPS.

323

324 ***Evaluation of hand map geometry.*** As a measure of the functional geometry of the
325 map, we measured the spatial arrangement (i.e. direction) of the spatial gradients of the
326 map. As illustrated in Figure 7A, the hand map exhibits a typical spatial gradient from
327 index finger to little finger. For each participant, we resampled the map ROIs from the
328 inflated cortical surface of each participant onto a flattened, two-dimensional, surface
329 patch. After sampling the complex-valued 3D phase-mapping data to the folded surface,
330 we displayed it on a small flattened, 2D surface patch, which minimizes deviations from
331 original geometry. We gently smoothed the complex values on the surface using a 1.5
332 mm kernel and then converted the complex-valued data (real, imaginary) to amplitude
333 and phase angle. The 2D gradient of the phase angle was computed after fitting a plane
334 to the data from the surrounding vertices (taking care to circularly subtract the angular
335 data). The amplitude of the gradient at each vertex was then normalized for display.

336

337 The mean direction of map gradients is not informative because each participant cortical
338 patch has an arbitrary direction. However, the spread (or variability) of map gradients is
339 informative, because it doesn't depend on the orientation of the cortical surface patch;
340 higher variability of gradient directions indicates that the map phases are more spread
341 and less spatially organized. Therefore, we investigated whether the functional geometry
342 of the map is affected by CRPS, by testing whether the gradient directions of the map of
343 the affected hand were more variable than those of the unaffected hand and controls. As
344 a measure of map gradient variability, we calculated the circular variance of the gradient
345 angles of each ROI. We conducted a Harrison-Kanji test (Harrison and Kanji, 1988;
346 Berens, 2009) on the gradient variances to statistically compare the variability of map
347 gradients across groups and participants. This test allowed us to perform a two-factor
348 ANOVA for circular data, with a within-subject factor 'side' (2-levels: affected, unaffected)
349 and a between-subjects factor 'group' (2-levels: controls, CRPS). BFs for each contrast
350 were calculated as described by equation 4 (the probability level for H_0 was 0.05).

351

352 We tested the hypothesis that there was a relation between map gradient variability and
353 disease duration, using the equation for circular-linear correlation (r_{cl}) described in (Zar,
354 1999: equation 27.47). A p-value for r_{cl} is computed by considering the test statistic $N r_{cl}^2$,
355 which follows a χ^2 distribution with two degrees of freedom (Berens, 2009). BFs based
356 on the χ^2 distribution were calculated following equation 4 (with 0.05 probability level for
357 H_0).

358

359 **Cross-subject average (for illustration).** We averaged maps across subjects purely for
360 illustration. All statistical analyses were performed on measures derived from the
361 individual-subjects maps. We first inflated each participant's cortical surface to a sphere,
362 and then non-linearly morphed it into alignment with an average spherical cortical
363 surface using FreeSurfer's tool `mri_surf2surf` (Fischl et al., 1999). This procedure
364 maximizes alignment between sulci (including the central sulcus), while minimizing
365 metric distortions across the surface. Four steps of nearest-neighbour smoothing (<1.5
366 mm FWHM in 2D) were applied to the data after resampling on the spherical surface.
367 Complex-valued mapping signals were then combined across all subjects
368 (independently of whether the S1 map was detected or not) on a vertex-by-vertex basis
369 by vector averaging (Mancini et al., 2012). The amplitude was normalized to 1, which
370 prevented overrepresenting subjects with strong amplitudes. Finally, a scalar cross-
371 subject F-ratio was calculated from the complex data and rendered back onto
372 'fsaverage' (uncorrected, $p < 0.05$).

373

374 **Software and Data Availability**

375 Software to perform phase-mapping analyses is openly available at
376 <http://www.cogsci.ucsd.edu/~sereno/tmp/dist/csurf>. We used an open-source software
377 (JASP) for the Bayesian statistical analyses: <https://jasp-stats.org>. Each individual hand map
378 ROI is available at <OSF link to be disclosed upon acceptance>.

379

380 **Results**

381

382 **Demographics and sensitivity to pain**

383

384 Table 1 reports the demographic and clinical information of the study sample (Healthy
385 controls: $n = 17$; CRPS to the left hand: $n = 8$; CRPS to the right hand: $n = 10$). Age was
386 similar in the control group (mean \pm SD, 44.9 ± 12.0 years) and in the patients ($44.2 \pm$
387 11.3 ; independent samples t-test: $t_{33} = 0.19$, $p = 0.856$, $BF_{10} = 0.329$). Handedness was
388 evaluated using the Edinburgh Handedness Inventory, which yields a laterality score that
389 ranges from -100 (left-hand dominant) to $+100$ (right-hand dominant) (Oldfield, 1971).
390 This laterality score was comparable in controls (73.6 ± 49.8) and patients (61.6 ± 58.1 ;
391 independent samples t-test: $t_{33} = 0.65$, $p = 0.518$, $BF_{10} = 0.384$). Age of patients was
392 similar to those found in the UK CRPS Registry (Shenker et al., 2015): mean age at
393 onset was 43 ± 12.7 years ($n = 239$), whereas mean pain duration was 2.9 years ($n =$
394 237) was slightly shorter in the UK CRPS registry.

395

396 As expected, CRPS patients were more sensitive to pressure, with lower average pain
397 pressure threshold (PPT) on their affected hand (3.4 ± 3.8) than on their unaffected hand
398 (7.6 ± 11.0 ; paired samples t-test: $t_{17} = -2.21$, $p = 0.041$, $BF_{10} = 1.679$). Confirming that
399 the CRPS was unilateral, PPTs on the unaffected hand of CRPS patients were similar to
400 those of controls (average left and right hand of controls \pm SD, 10.7 ± 14.9 ; independent
401 samples t-test: $t_{33} = 0.72$, $p = 0.476$, $BF_{10} = 0.398$). Ratings of spontaneous pain did not

402 vary in a consistent fashion before and after the imaging session (mean difference \pm SD,
403 0.6 ± 2.5 ; $t_{16} = 0.96$, $p = 0.351$, $BF_{10} = 0.281$).

404

405 **Somatotopic representation of the hand in S1**

406

407 We stimulated the tips of each finger in succession, as shown in Figure 2A, using a
408 mechanical probe. Mechanical stimulation to the fingertips elicited a periodic response in
409 the hand region of S1 (Figure 2B). A selection of single-subjects maps is shown in
410 Figure 3 and the average maps are displayed in Figure 4. The map phase angle
411 (indicating finger preference) is displayed using a continuous colour scale (red to green
412 to blue to yellow), the saturation of which is masked by the statistical threshold. All
413 analyses were performed on individual subject data (cluster-corrected at $p < 0.01$), but
414 uncorrected group maps ($p < 0.05$) are displayed in Figure 4 merely for illustration.
415 Phases corresponding to rest (no stimulation) have been truncated. The map showed a
416 clear spatial gradient of digit preference, progressing from d2 (index finger) to d3, d4 and
417 d5 (little finger). The arrangement and location of the map was qualitatively similar to
418 that reported in previous human fMRI studies (Sanchez-Panchuelo et al., 2010; Mancini
419 et al., 2012; Besle et al., 2013; Martuzzi et al., 2014; Kolasinski et al., 2016a).

420

421 We tested whether the area, location, and functional geometry of the map of the affected
422 hand was similar to those of the unaffected hand and controls. To do so, we defined
423 individual ROIs as clusters located in S1 that showed a significant periodic response at
424 the spatial frequency of stimulation (cluster-corrected, $p < 0.01$).

425

426 **1. Map area**

427 To control for inter-individual variability in brain size, we resampled the phase maps onto
428 the original average brain volume. We then calculated the surface area of the left- and
429 right-hand maps from each participant ROI. In order to increase statistical power, we
430 flipped the data from the right hand CRPS group so that the affected side became the
431 left hand/right hemisphere in all patients and then pooled these data. As evident in
432 Figure 5A, the map area was comparable among groups and sides. A mixed-effects
433 ANOVA with a within-subject factor 'side' (2-levels: affected, unaffected) and a between-
434 subjects factor 'group' (2-levels: controls, CRPS) did not provide evidence for any main
435 effect or interaction ('side': $F_{1,28} = 0.281$, $p = 0.60$, $p\eta^2 = 0.010$; 'group': $F_{1,28} = 1.555$, $p =$
436 0.223 , $p\eta^2 = 0.053$; 'side' by 'group': $F_{1,28} = 0.315$, $p = 0.579$, $p\eta^2 = 0.011$). A Bayesian
437 mixed-effects ANOVA provided the stronger evidence for the null model ($BF_{10} = 1$,
438 $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.492$) relative to models of 'group' ($BF_{10} = 0.512$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.252$), 'side'
439 ($BF_{10} = 0.305$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.150$), 'side+group' ($BF_{10} = 0.153$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.075$),
440 'side+group+interaction' ($BF_{10} = 0.126$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.030$).

441

442 **1.1. Relation with disease duration**

443 We checked whether there was any relationship between map size and duration of
444 disease. As the distribution of disease duration values was skewed towards small
445 values, disease duration data were first transformed onto natural logarithms. The log-

446 transformed disease duration was normally distributed (Shapiro-Wilk test = 0.94, $p =$
447 0.293; skewness = -0.002 ± 0.536). A Bayesian linear regression showed stronger
448 evidence for a model in which the area of the map covaried with (log-transformed)
449 disease duration $BF_{10} = 3.016$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.030$) than for the null model ($BF_{10} = 1$,
450 $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.249$): in participants that suffered from CRPS for a longer time had a
451 smaller map of the affected hand.

452

453 **1.2. Relation with upper limb disability**

454 Disease duration did not correlate with the severity of disability of the CRPS limb, as
455 measured by the *QuickDash* score (Pearson's $r = 0.002$, $BF_{10} = 0.291$). In patients, the
456 *QuickDash* score did not predict the area of the map of the affected hand in a Bayesian
457 linear regression analysis (null model: $BF_{10} = 1$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.620$; disability model: BF_{10}
458 = 0.614, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.380$).

459

460 **1.3. Relation with pain intensity**

461 We found no evidence for a linear relation between the area of the map of the affected
462 hand and pain intensity ratings obtained during the imaging session (ratings for each
463 subject are reported in Table 1). The null model ($BF_{10} = 1$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.685$) won over
464 a model in which the area of the map of the affected hand linearly covaried with pain
465 intensity ratings ($BF_{10} = 0.460$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.315$). Moreover, there was no evidence for
466 a relation between the area of the map of the affected hand and a score of pain severity
467 derived from PPTs (PP_{severity}). A Bayesian linear regression showed that the null model
468 ($BF_{10} = 1$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.510$) and a model with PP_{severity} ($BF_{10} = 0.960$, $P(\text{Mldata}) =$
469 0.490) were similarly likely. In our sample, disease duration did not correlate with either
470 pain intensity ratings collected during the imaging session (Pearson's $r = 0.249$, $BF_{10} =$
471 0.463) or with PP_{severity} (Pearson's $r = -0.108$, $BF_{10} = 0.317$)

472

473 Finally, the area of the map of the unaffected hand was not explained by CRPS duration,
474 pain intensity rating, or PP_{severity} (all BF_{10} for null models = 1; all BF_{10} for alternative
475 models < 0.6).

476

477 In summary, these analyses do not provide support for the hypothesis that the map of
478 the CRPS hand was smaller than the map of the unaffected hand and that of healthy
479 controls, at group level. However, we found evidence that the map area of the CRPS
480 hand was modulated by disease duration, across participants. The more chronic was the
481 disease, the smaller was the map of the affected hand. Map area was not predicted by
482 various measures of pain severity and upper limb disability.

483

484 **2. Map location**

485 We calculated the centroid of the hand map, after resampling it onto an average
486 spherical surface (see "Evaluation of hand map location" for details). This was done to
487 control for individual differences in brain morphology and to obtain localisation measures
488 that were not confounded by gyrification. Figure 6A-B shows the distribution of map
489 centroids of each participant, resampled onto a canonical spherical cortical surface of an

490 average brain; the map centroid location was variable among participants of each group,
491 but visibly similar across groups. Indeed, the F-statistics based on the Fisher probability
492 density function (Fisher, 1953) did not provide evidence for any directional difference
493 between groups for either side (Table 2).

494

495 As a further comparison of the locations of map centroids across groups, we computed
496 the geodesic distance, in mm, between the map centroid and an arbitrary reference point
497 located within the concavity of the central sulcus (Figure 6C). Importantly, geodesic
498 distance measures calculated onto average spherical surfaces are not confounded by
499 gyrification and allow comparison of different subjects. This is a key advantage of our
500 approach over previous studies which measured Euclidean distances between two
501 finger representations. A mixed-effects ANOVA with a within-subject factor 'side' and a
502 between-subjects factor 'group' did not provide evidence for any main effect or
503 interaction ('side': $F_{1,28} < 0.01$, $p = 0.999$, $p\eta^2 < 0.001$; 'group': $F_{1,28} = 0.163$, $p = 0.689$,
504 $p\eta^2 = 0.006$; 'side' by 'group': $F_{1,28} = 0.254$, $p = 0.619$, $p\eta^2 = 0.009$). In a Bayesian mixed-
505 effects ANOVA, the null model had stronger evidence ($BF_{10} = 1$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.581$)
506 relative to models of 'group' ($BF_{10} = 0.340$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.198$), 'side' ($BF_{10} = 0.262$,
507 $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.152$), 'side+group' ($BF_{10} = 0.087$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.051$),
508 'side+group+interaction' ($BF_{10} = 0.032$, $P(\text{Mldata}) = 0.019$).

509

510 Altogether, these analyses indicate that the location of the hand map centroid was not
511 affected by CRPS.

512

513 **3. Map geometry**

514 Finally, we evaluated the variability of the geometry of the map of the affected hand in
515 CRPS patients. As illustrated in Figure 7A, the hand map exhibits a typical spatial
516 gradient from index finger to little finger. The spatial gradient (i.e. the direction) of the
517 map indicates the spatial progression of the map phases, providing a measure of the
518 map geometry. We investigated whether the gradient directions of the map of the
519 affected hand were more variable than those of the unaffected hand and controls. As a
520 measure of map gradient variability, we calculated the circular variance of the gradient
521 angles of each flattened, two-dimensional, surface ROI (see "Evaluation of hand map
522 geometry" for details).

523

524 The gradient directions of the map of the affected hand were not differently variable (i.e.
525 not differently spread) from those of the unaffected hand and controls (Figure 7B). A
526 Harrison-Kanji test with a within-subject factor 'side' and a between-subjects factor
527 'group' on the gradient variances provided evidence for a main effect of side ($F_{1,59} =$
528 4.813 , $p = 0.032$, $p\eta^2 = 0.079$, $BF_{10} = 1.202$) and no evidence for a main effect of group
529 ($F_{1,59} = 2.243$, $p = 0.140$, $p\eta^2 = 0.038$, $BF_{10} = 0.560$). We found weak and inconclusive
530 evidence for an interaction between side and group ($F_{1,59} = 3.889$, $p = 0.071$, $p\eta^2 =$
531 0.057 , $BF_{10} = 0.971$). This suggests that the spread of map gradients, which is a
532 measure of functional organization, was largely similar across groups.

533

534 Lastly, we tested whether there was a circular-linear correlation (r_{cl}) between map
535 gradient variability and disease duration. This analysis did not provide evidence for a
536 relation between the (log-transformed) disease duration and the gradient variability of
537 either the affected hand map ($r_{cl} = 0.395$, $p = 0.310$, $BF_{10} = 0.066$) or the unaffected
538 hand map ($r_{cl} = 0.197$, $p = 0.734$, $BF_{10} = 0.034$).

539
540

541 **Discussion**

542

543 We show that the cortical map of the fingertips of the CRPS hand in S1 is strikingly
544 comparable to the map of the unaffected hand and controls in terms of area, location,
545 orientation, and geometry. Although the area of the map of the affected hand was
546 comparable to that of the unaffected hand and controls, it was modulated by disease
547 duration, but not by pain intensity, pain sensitivity and upper limb disability: across
548 participants, the longer was the duration of CRPS, the smaller was the area of the map
549 of the CRPS hand. Our results do not exclude that other abnormalities may occur at S1
550 level, such as excitability changes (Lenz et al., 2011; Di Pietro et al., 2013),
551 morphological (Baliki et al., 2011; Pleger et al., 2014; cfr. van Velzen et al., 2016) and
552 connectivity changes (Geha et al., 2008). However, our findings challenge or, at the very
553 least, narrow the notion of S1 map reorganization in CRPS: if any map reorganization
554 occurs, it does not appear to be directly related to pain.

555

556 These findings urge us to reconsider the mechanisms that are proposed to underpin
557 CRPS (Marinus et al., 2011). They also compel us to reevaluate the rationale for (and
558 mechanism of effect of) clinical interventions that aimed to reduce pain by “restoring”
559 somatotopic representations with sensory discrimination training (Moseley et al., 2008b;
560 Catley et al., 2014), or by correcting sensorimotor incongruences (which are thought to
561 be induced by S1 reorganisation) with mirror therapy (McCabe et al., 2003) (but see
562 Moseley and Gandevia, 2005; Moseley et al., 2008b). Although these interventions
563 appear to offer clinical benefit (O'Connell et al., 2013), they are unlikely to engender a
564 “restoration” of somatotopic representations in S1, which are largely comparable to
565 those of controls.

566

567 ***Revisiting previous evidence of somatotopic reorganisation in CRPS***

568

569 Comparisons across different studies are inevitably challenging due to the complexity
570 and variety of CRPS symptomatology; in previous studies, patients varied greatly in
571 regard to the combination, severity and duration of their symptoms. Our study suggests
572 that map size is probably related with disease duration, although only a longitudinal
573 study could confirm a causal relationship.

574

575 There are also important methodological issues to consider. The notion of somatotopic
576 reorganisation in CRPS was mostly based on studies that used imaging methods
577 (EEG/MEG) with lower spatial resolution than fMRI (Juottonen et al., 2002; Maihofner et

578 al., 2003; Pleger et al., 2004; Vartiainen et al., 2008; Vartiainen et al., 2009). A more
579 recent study used fMRI and measured the cortical distance between d1 and d5
580 activation peaks (Di Pietro et al., 2015). This study partially confirmed former EEG/MEG
581 findings, reporting that the d1-d5 distance in S1 was smaller for the affected hand than it
582 was for the unaffected hand in CRPS patients. However, the representation of the
583 affected hand was comparable to that of healthy controls, in agreement with the current
584 results. Critically, the Di Pietro study (2015) found that the representation of the
585 unaffected hand in CRPS patients was larger than that of controls, thus challenging the
586 view that the representation of the affected hand is shrunk and suggesting that the
587 representation of the unaffected hand is actually enlarged. The current results do not
588 support either interpretation.

589

590 Three important limitations affect all previous studies, regardless of the imaging
591 approach used. First, the approach taken to estimate map size is both indirect and
592 incomplete, because it is based on the measurement of the Euclidean *distance* between
593 the activation maxima of two fingers (d1 and d5). Instead, the *area* of the map of all
594 fingers is a more direct and complete measure of map size. Second, Euclidean
595 measures of cortical distances can be inaccurate because they disregard that the
596 cortical surface is not flat, especially in the regions of the sulci. Third, Euclidean distance
597 measures can be affected by non-topographical, structural changes in S1, which can be
598 associated with CRPS (Baliki et al., 2011; Pleger et al., 2014). The latter two problems
599 can be overcome by morphing activation maps onto a reconstruction of the flattened
600 cortical surface (Makin et al., 2013a; Kikkert et al., 2016), but previous studies on CRPS
601 patients have not taken this approach. Altogether, these methodological issues can
602 affect both the accuracy and validity of previous measures of map extent.

603

604

605 ***Stability of cortical topographies***

606

607 Recent fMRI studies (Makin et al., 2013a; Kikkert et al., 2016) suggest that finger
608 topographies in S1 are surprisingly persistent even in humans who suffered amputation
609 of the upper-limb. It was demonstrated that the area, location and functional organisation
610 of the S1 maps of the missing hand were similar, although noisier, to those observed in
611 controls during finger movements (Makin et al., 2013a; Kikkert et al., 2016). It has also
612 been shown that the deafferented territory in human S1 can respond to somatotopically
613 adjacent body regions (i.e. the lip for upper limb amputees) (Flor et al., 1995; Flor,
614 2008), or to body regions that the amputees overuse to supplement lost hand function
615 (e.g. the intact hand). This results in a highly idiosyncratic remapping which does not
616 necessarily involve adjacent representations in S1 (Makin et al., 2013b; Philip and Frey,
617 2014). Thus, cortical reorganisation in amputees is not dictated by cortical topographies,
618 but can depend on compensatory use of other body parts. Similarly, short-term shifts in
619 S1 maps can occur in healthy participants after surgical gluing of the index and middle
620 fingers for 24 hours. These changes are thought to depend on compensatory use of the
621 fourth and fifth fingers (Kolasinski et al., 2016b). These studies support the view that any

622 S1 change previously reported in CRPS patients might not directly related to pain, but it
623 remains to be determined why map shrinkage relates to disease duration. Could it be
624 related to hand use? We found no relation between map size and severity of the upper
625 limb disability.

626

627 Recent evidence from electrophysiological and inactivation studies in monkeys suggests
628 that the reorganisation following nerve transection originates, not in S1, but in the
629 brainstem. Indeed, inactivating the cuneate nucleus abolishes the neural activity in the
630 deafferented limb representation in S1 elicited by face stimulation (Kambi et al., 2014).
631 Hence, loss of input from a body region in adulthood may lead to the formation or
632 potentiation of lateral connections in the brainstem, which gives rise to a new pathway
633 from periphery to cortex. It is not clear whether this new pathway contributes to cortical
634 reorganisation, but the original pathway seems to be relatively spared even under the
635 extreme circumstance of limb amputation (Makin and Bensmaia, 2017).

636

637 Some resistance to change has also been described for visual retinotopic maps.
638 Although it has been shown that large lesions to the retina in adult mammals can induce
639 a reorganization of retinotopic cortical maps in primary visual cortex (Kaas et al., 1990),
640 more recent studies have reported that the topography of the macaque primary visual
641 cortex does not change (for at least seven months) following binocular retinal lesions
642 (Smirnakis et al., 2005). Similarly, severe eye diseases such as retinal degeneration do
643 not seem to affect retinotopic representations in the human early visual cortex (Xie et al.,
644 2012; Haak et al., 2016). Altogether, these findings suggest that cortical topography is
645 more stable and resistant to change than what it was initially thought.

646

647 **Conclusion and future directions**

648 Our study provides the most complete characterization, to date, of the S1 somatotopy of
649 the CRPS hand. We report that the S1 representation of the CRPS hand is comparable,
650 at the group level, to that of the healthy hand, in terms of cortical area, location and
651 geometry. The area of the S1 map of the CRPS hand is related to disease duration but
652 not to pain intensity, pain sensitivity and upper limb disability. Future longitudinal studies
653 are required to determine how the map changes over time and its effect on sensorimotor
654 function.

655

656

657 **Figure captions**

658

659 **Figure 1.** *Preliminary results that guided the design of the finger mapping protocol. (A)*
660 *Comparable somatotopic representation in the contralateral S1 to unilateral and bilateral*
661 *finger stimulation, at within-subject level. The map of the fingertips (d2-d5) in*
662 *contralateral S1 was strikingly similar in a condition in which we stimulated the fingertips*
663 *of one hand at time and in another condition whereby we stroked homologous fingertips*
664 *of both hands simultaneously. (B) Bootstrapping validation. We validated the results*
665 *shown in panel A using a bootstrapping approach. Seven functional runs per condition*

666 (unilateral stimulation, bilateral stimulation) were collected in a single participant, in
667 multiple scanning sessions. We selected, both recursively and randomly, 4 runs among
668 the 7 collected per condition and averaged results across these 4 runs to assess intra-
669 individual map reproducibility. The maps of the fingertips were highly reproducible in
670 both unilateral and bilateral stimulation conditions. (C) *Time course of activity in the left*
671 *hemisphere during unilateral fingertip stimulation.* Panel C shows the percent modulation
672 of BOLD response in the left S1 induced by periodic stimulation of the fingertips of the
673 right hand and left hand. We did not observed a spatially-tuned activation of the left S1
674 induced by left-hand stimulation.

675

676 **Figure 2.** (A) *Phase-encoded stimulation procedure.* The tip of the index finger (red, d2),
677 middle finger (green, d3), ring finger (blue, d4), little finger (yellow, d5) were stimulated in
678 succession, in repeated cycles (12 cycles per run). To reduce scanning time, the
679 homologous fingers of the right and left hands were stimulated simultaneously. (B)
680 *Illustrative phase-encoded response to periodic fingertip stimulation.* The figure shows
681 the raw Blood-Oxygen-Level-Dependent (BOLD) response in four voxels of interest (thin
682 lines; data were motion-corrected and the linear trend removed). The locations of the
683 voxels are marked with a star on the cortical surface of the left primary somatosensory
684 cortex of one participant. The thicker lines represent the average of the raw BOLD
685 response across 12 cycles of stimulation. The transversal, dashed, white line is
686 displayed to facilitate the visualization of the shift of the phase of the BOLD response
687 across the four voxels. The F-statistics of the signal at different phases are rendered on
688 the inflated cortical surface and color-coded as in panel A (cluster-corrected $p < 0.01$).
689 Phases corresponding to rest have been truncated.

690

691 **Figure 3.** *Phase maps of the hand in an illustrative control participant and three CRPS*
692 *patients.* The color-coding scheme used is shown on the top of the figure and is the
693 same as in Figure 1: red = d2, green = d3, blue = d4, yellow = d5. Phases corresponding
694 to rest have been truncated. Statistical thresholding and cluster correction at $p < 0.01$
695 was applied to each individual-participant data. CS: central sulcus. The star symbol
696 denotes the map of the CRPS hand.

697

698 **Figure 4.** *Surface-based average of phase maps in controls, patients with CRPS to the*
699 *right hand, and patients with CRPS to the left hand.* The complex-valued mapping data
700 were averaged in a spherical surface coordinate system after morphing each subject's
701 data into alignment with an average spherical sulcal pattern, and the F-statistics were
702 rendered back onto an average unfolded cortical surface (Freesurfer's *fsaverage*,
703 'inflated_average'; uncorrected $p < 0.05$ only for illustration). The color-coding scheme
704 used is shown on the top of the figure and is the same as in Figures 1-2: red = d2, green
705 = d3, blue = d4, yellow = d5. Phases corresponding to rest have been truncated. CS:
706 central sulcus; PoCS: post-central sulcus.

707

708 **Figure 5.** (A) *Area of the hand map in S1.* The area of the hand map (mm^2) in the left
709 hemisphere and right hemisphere is plotted for each group and individual participant. To

710 facilitate comparison, data from the two CRPS groups (right hand CRPS, left hand
711 CRPS) were pooled, after flipping the data from one group (right hand CRPS) so that the
712 affected side is the left hand/right hemisphere in all patients. (B) *No relation between*
713 *map area and CRPS duration*. The top plot shows the lack of relation between the S1
714 map of the healthy hand and CRPS duration, whereas the bottom plot shows the weak
715 (not significant) relation between the S1 map of the affected hand and disease duration.

716

717 **Figure 6.** (A-B) *Spatial distribution of map centroids*. The location of the centroid of the
718 hand map in each individual subject is displayed on an average spherical cortical
719 surface. An arbitrary reference point on the central sulcus is marked with a white cross.
720 (C) *Geodesic distance (mm) between each map centroid and a reference point ('+')*
721 *on the central sulcus*. To facilitate comparison, data from the two CRPS groups (right hand
722 CRPS, left hand CRPS) were pooled, after flipping the data from one group (right hand
723 CRPS) so that the affected side is the left hand/right hemisphere in all patients.

724

725 **Figure 7.** (A) *Gradients of the hand map*. Gradients of a single-subject phase map are
726 displayed as cyan arrows over a flattened (2D) cortical surface patch. The gradient
727 points in the direction of the greatest rate of increase of the function (i.e. the direction of
728 the phase shift in the hand map). The color-coding scheme of the hand map is the same
729 as in Figures 1-3: red = d2, green = d3, blue = d4, yellow = d5. (B) *Variability of hand*
730 *map gradients*. The circular variance of map gradient directions is displayed for each
731 participant and condition (side: left hemisphere, right hemisphere; group: controls, CRPS
732 patients). The color-coding scheme for panel B is shown at the bottom of the figure. To
733 facilitate comparison, data from the two CRPS groups (right hand CRPS, left hand
734 CRPS) were pooled, after flipping the data from one group (right hand CRPS) so that the
735 affected side is the left hand/right hemisphere in all patients.

736

737

738 **Author contributions**

739

740 FM, APW, MMS, JHM, GDI, MIS, GLM, CR conceived and designed the study. APW,
741 MMS, ZJI collected the neuroimaging data. APW analysed the clinical data. FM
742 analysed the imaging data. FM wrote the initial draft of the manuscript. All authors edited
743 the manuscript.

744

745

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747

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757

758

759 **Potential conflicts of interest**

760

761 Dr Mancini reports grants from EFIC Grunenthal, outside the submitted work. Dr Wang
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769

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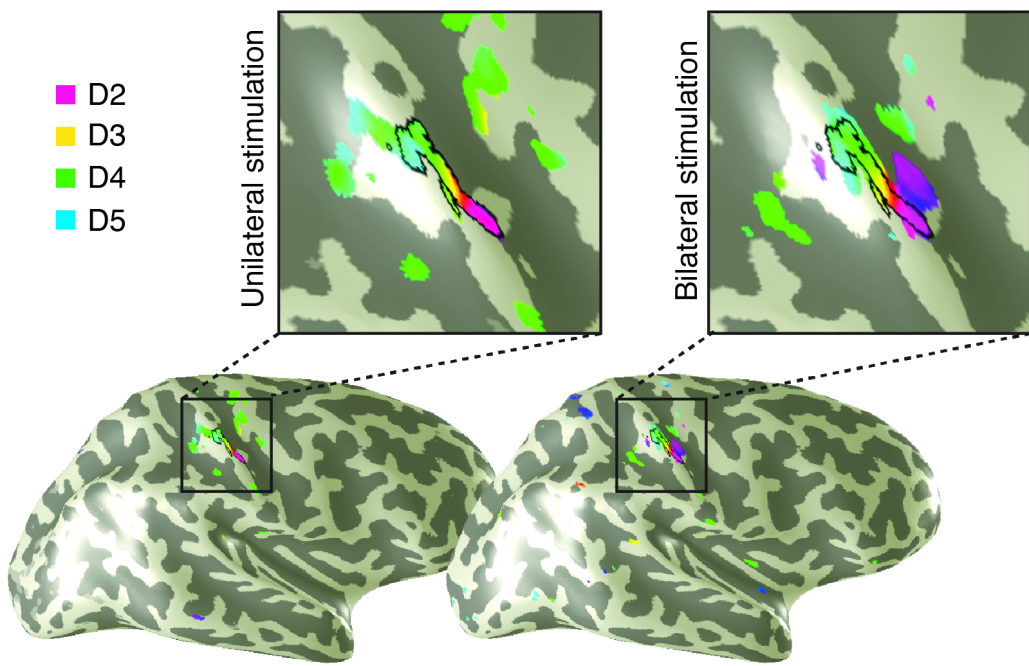
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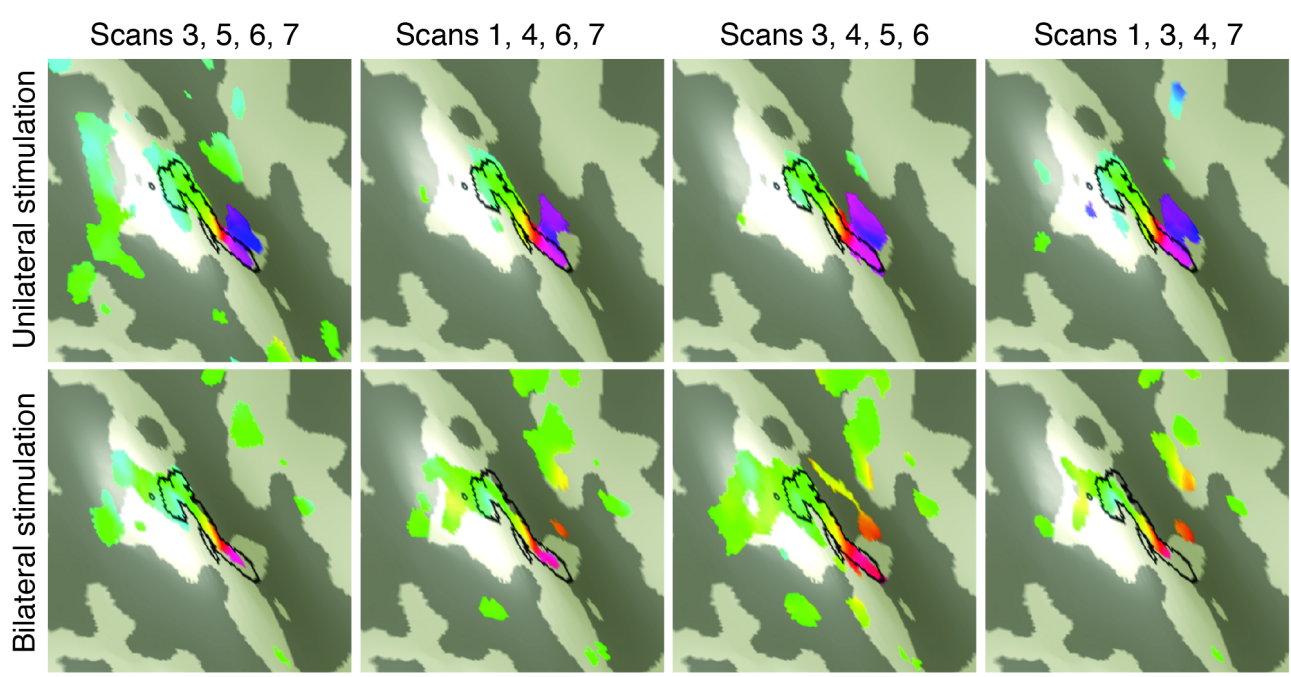
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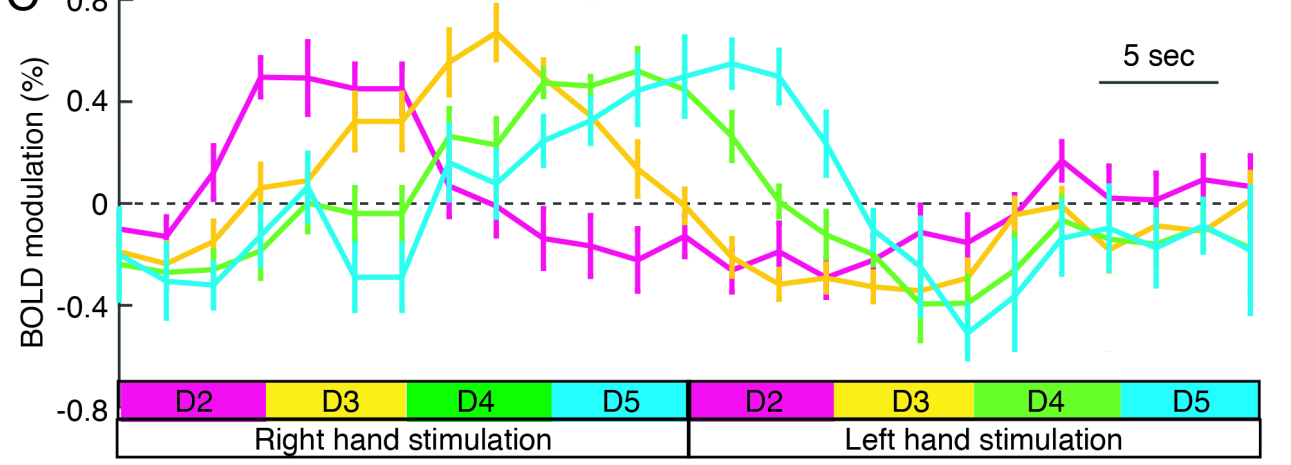
A Comparable somatotopic representation in the contralateral hemisphere to unilateral and bilateral (simultaneous) stimulation

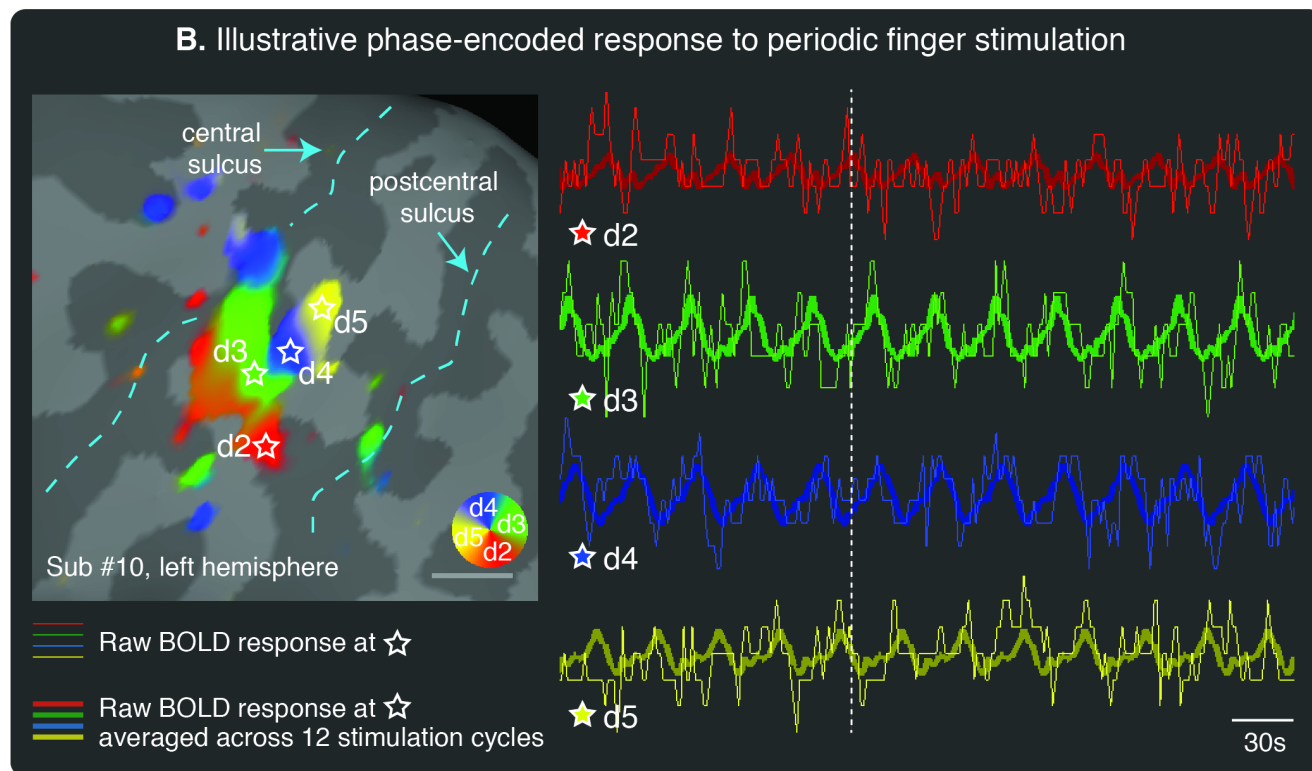
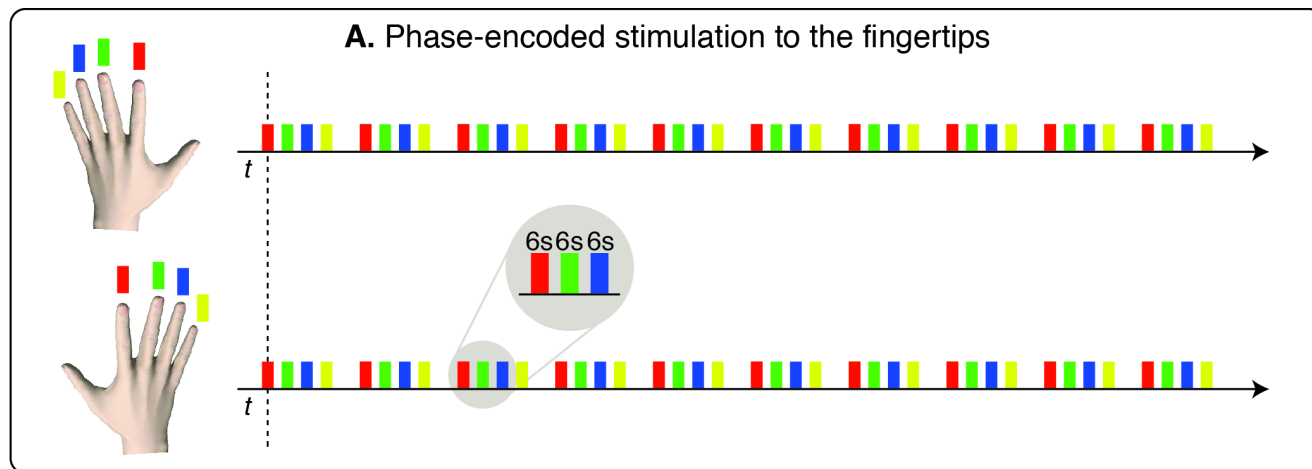


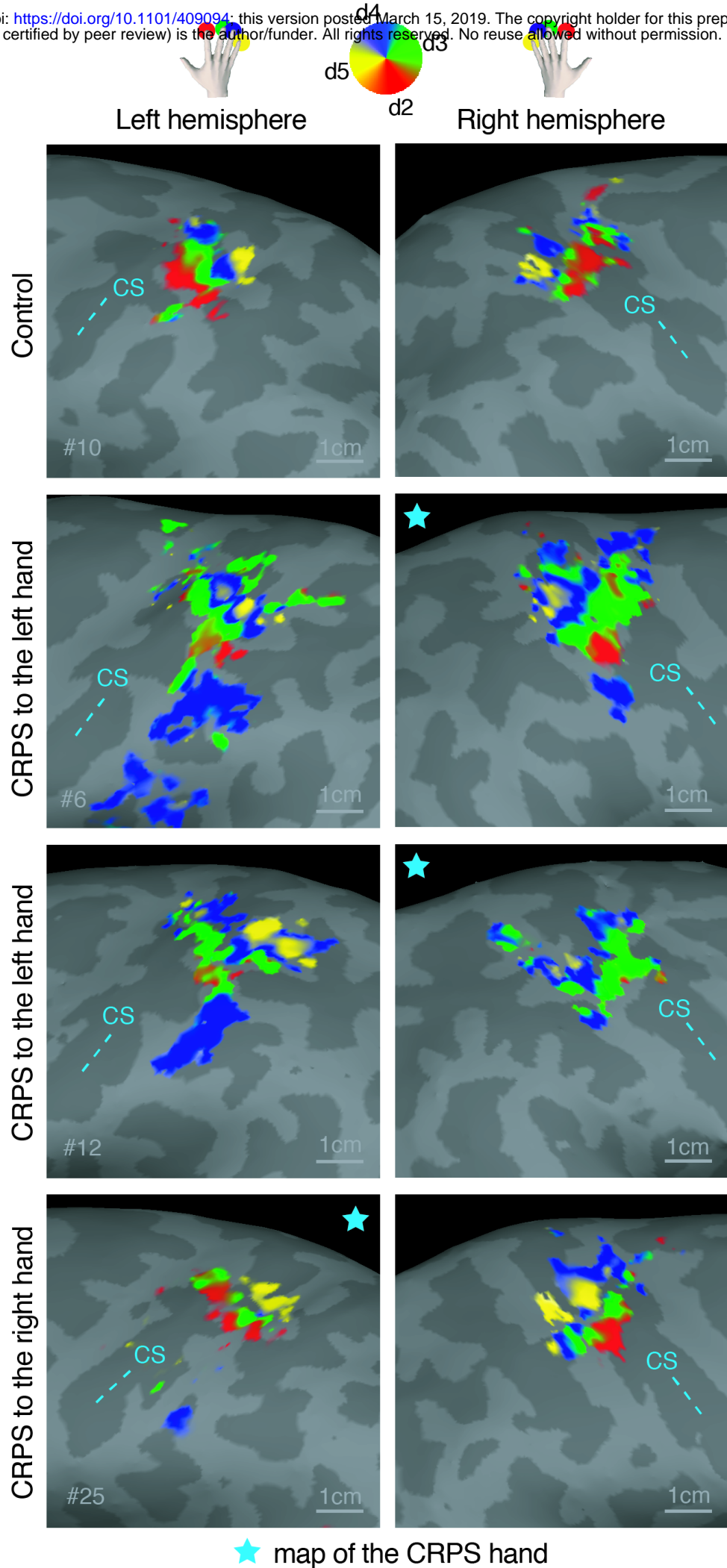
B Bootstrapping validation
Average of 4 different scans to assess within-subject reproducibility

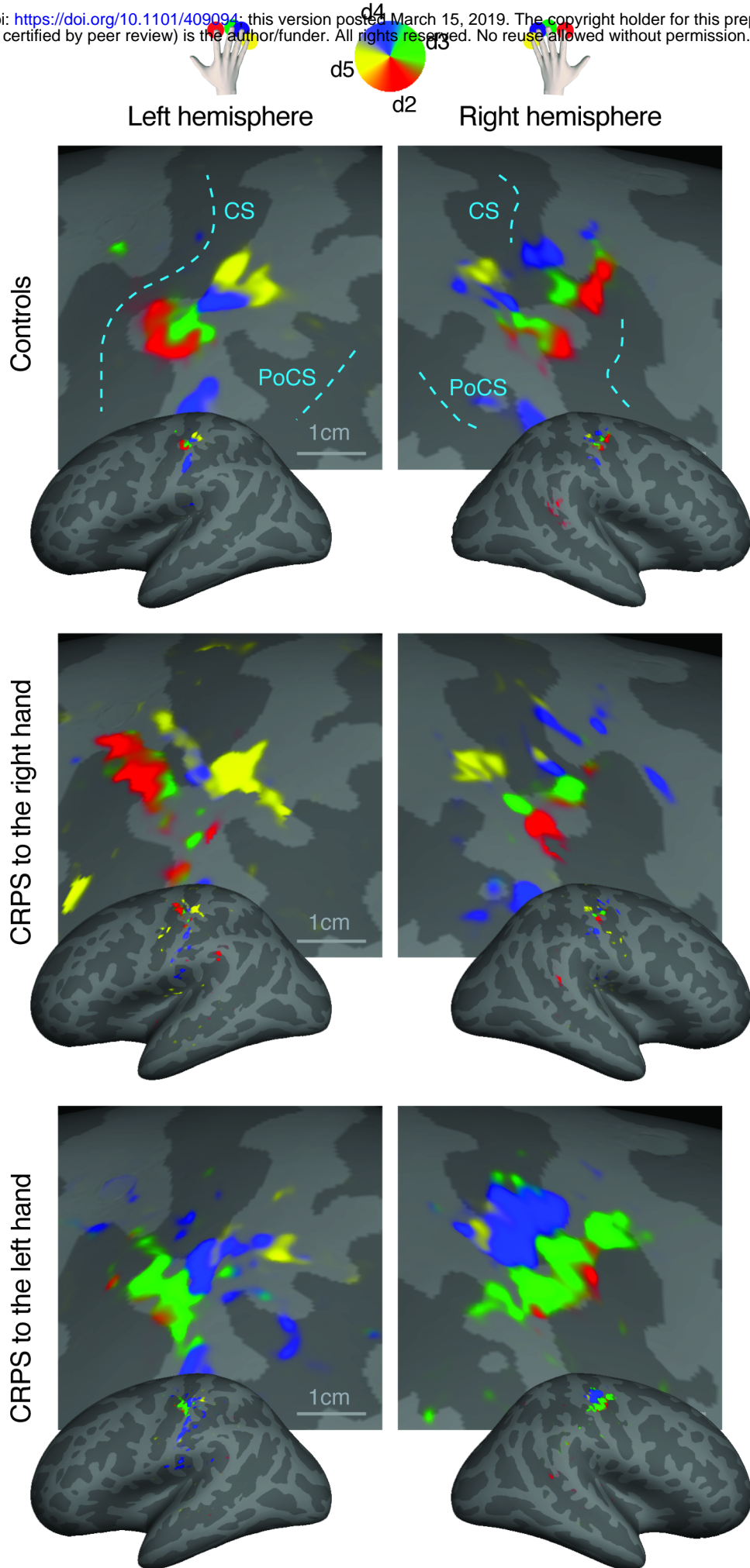


C Timecourse of activity in left hemisphere for unilateral stimulation

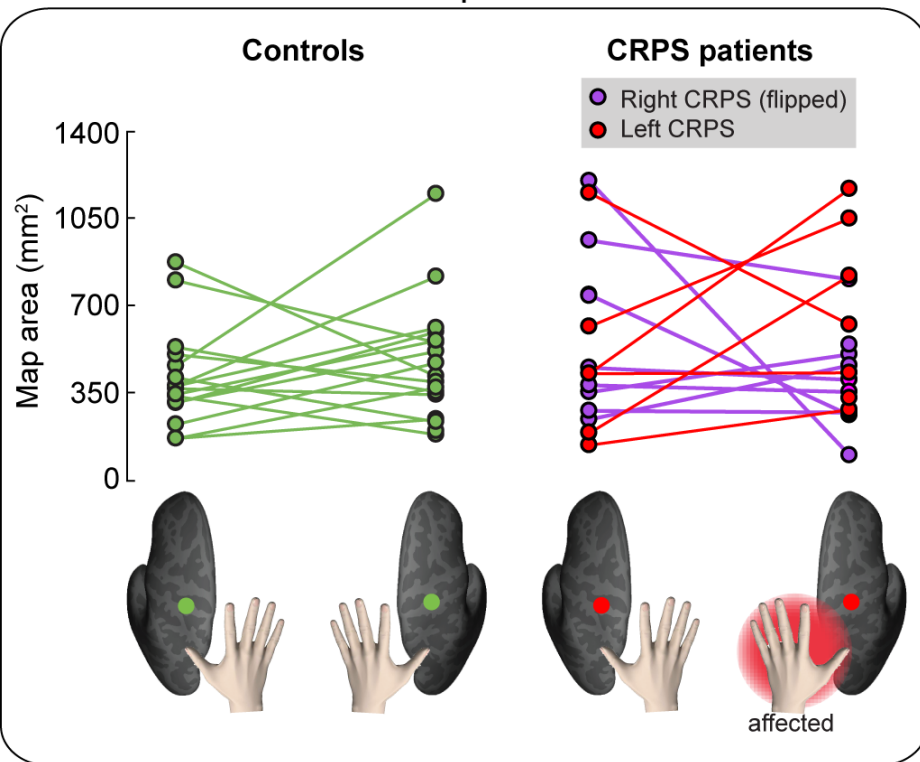




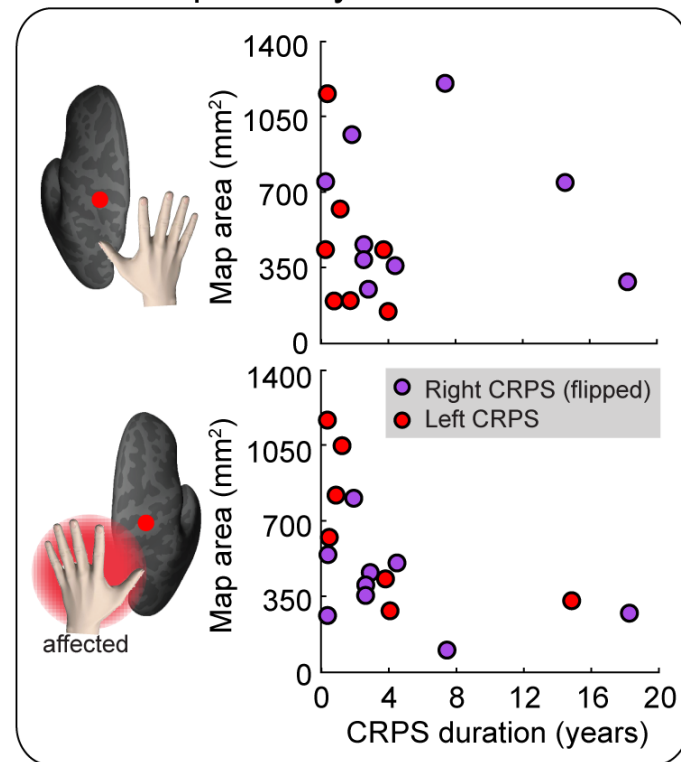




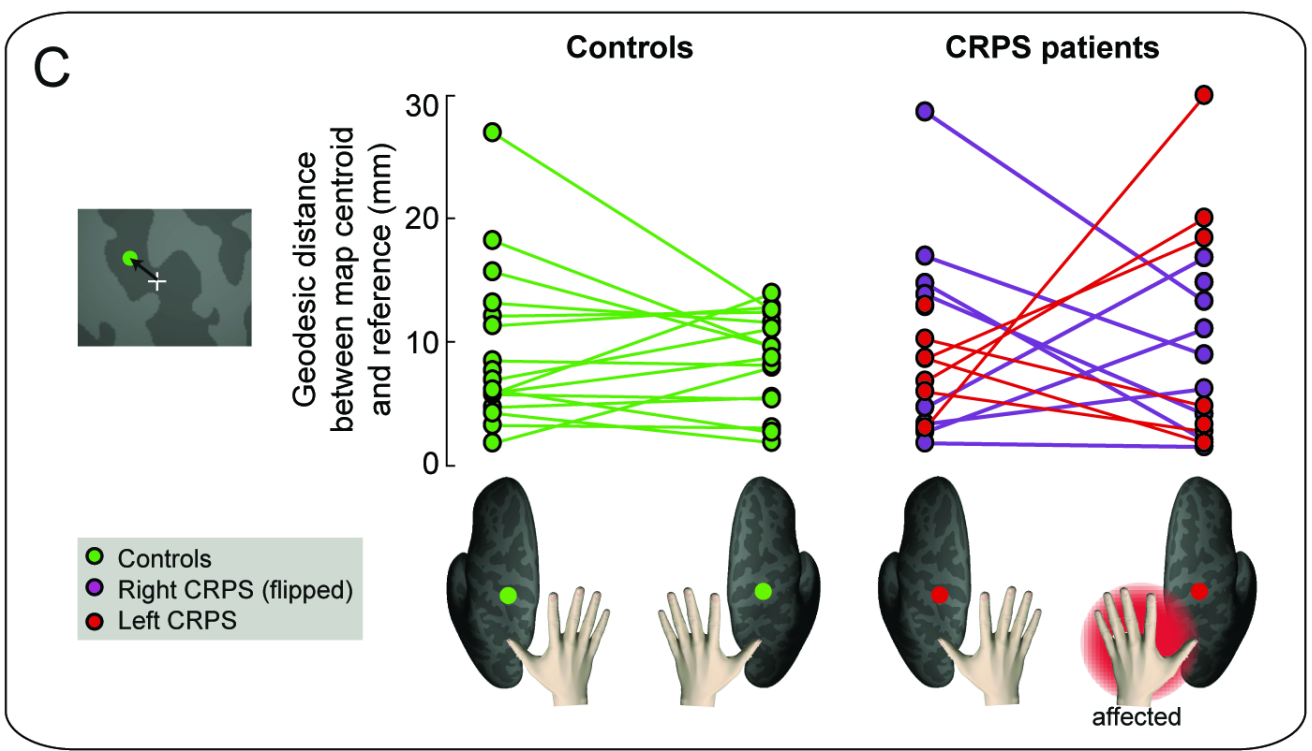
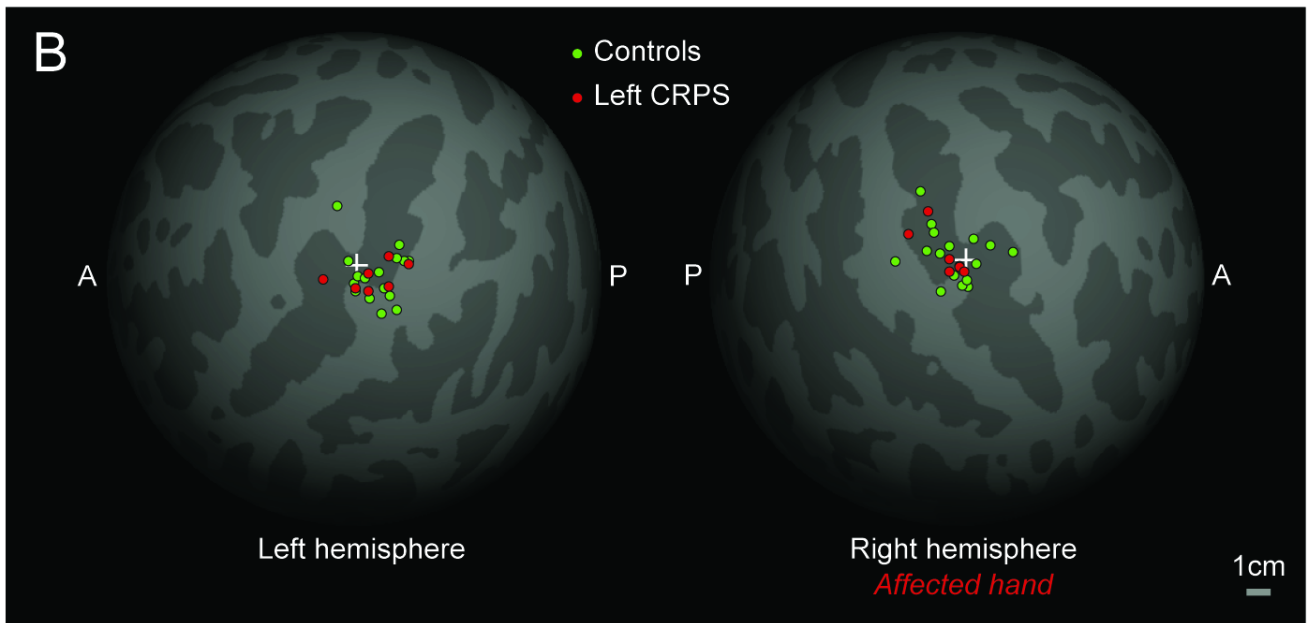
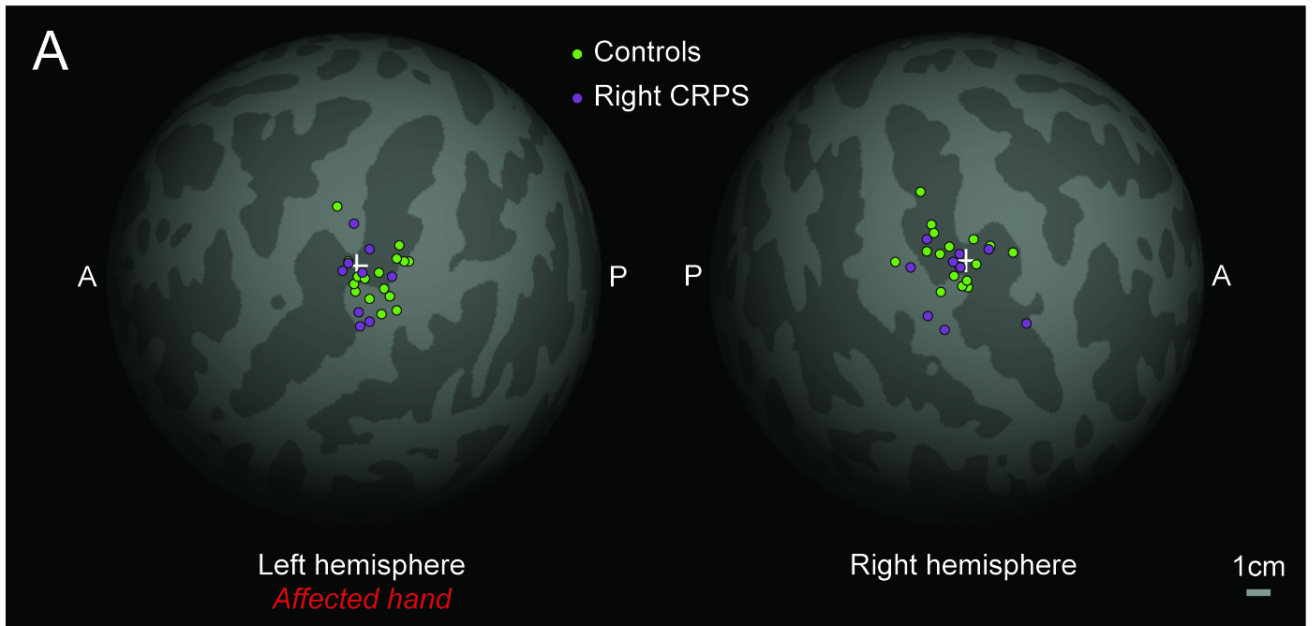
A. Map Area



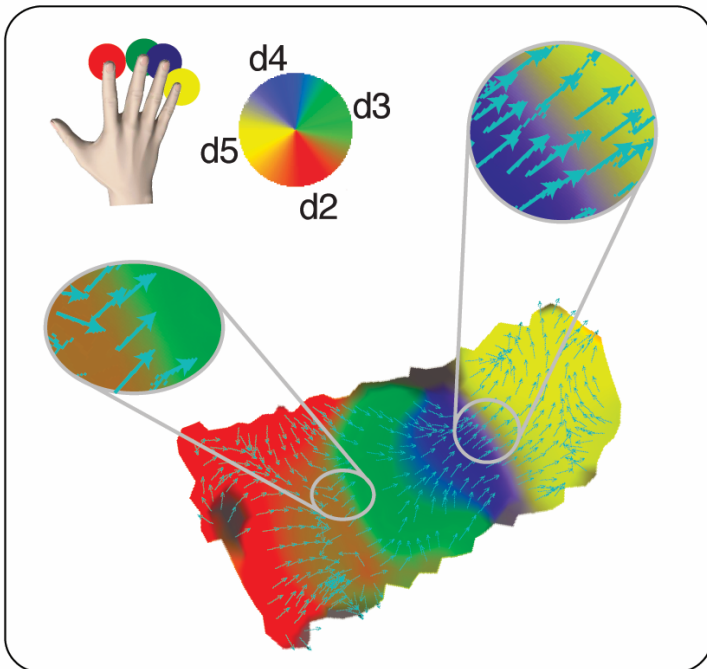
B. Map Area by CRPS duration



Location of map centroid



A. Gradients of hand map



B. Variance of map gradients

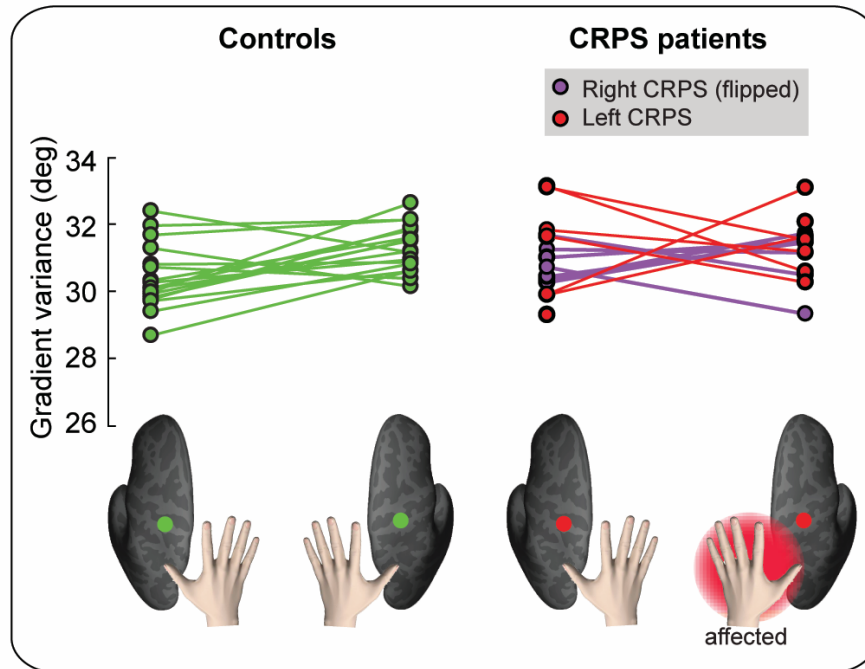


Table 1. Demographic and clinical information of the study sample.

Range of motion, motor weakness, tremor, allodynia: ‘-’ indicates no abnormality, whereas ‘+’ indicates presence of a symptom. Intensity of pain to the upper limb during scans were evaluated on a Likert scale from 0 (no pain) to 10 (worst pain imaginable). PPT indicates the Pressure Pain threshold and is reported in kg/cm² units. The laterality score is derived from the Edinburgh Handedness Inventory and ranges from -100 (left-hand dominant) to +100 (right-hand dominant).

ID	Group	Age	Gender	CRPS Duration (y)	Incident at onset	Range of Motion	Motor weakness	Tremor	Allodynia	Pain rating during scan	PPT left hand	PPT right hand	Laterality score
4	Control	38.5	F	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	1	50.5	62.2	87.5
5	Control	42.8	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	4	13.4	13.6	87.5
7	Control	52.8	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	43.7	40.8	87.5
10	Control	41.1	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	4.72	3.87	100
11	Control	56.6	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	5.03	4.83	73.3
16	Control	42.3	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	3.6	4.78	87.5
21	Control	34.1	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	3.84	4.72	64.7
22	Control	53.0	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	+	-	0	5.36	5.55	66.7
27	Control	48.7	F	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	7.92	7.39	100
30	Control	56.5	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	3.92	3.27	83.3
34	Control	46.9	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	5.58	5.73	100
35	Control	38.4	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	3.7	4.75	100
36	Control	47.8	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	5.6	5.53	-100
37	Control	25.2	F	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	4.41	4.88	100
38	Control	19.9	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	+	-	0	5.4	5.14	12.5
39	Control	49.2	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	6.52	7.71	100

40	Control	69.4	M	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	0	3.83	3.42	100
6	CRPS to left hand	42.4	M	1.2	Wrist fracture	+	+	+	+	7	1.9	12.2	50
9	CRPS to left hand	42.8	M	0.9	Wrist injury	+	+	-	+	8	10.6	12.3	83.3
12	CRPS to left hand	55.6	M	0.5	Frozen shoulder	+	+	+	-	9	2.06	4.13	83.3
14	CRPS to left hand	45.3	M	3.8	Hand surgery	+	+	+	+	7	1.8	2.55	4.3
23	CRPS to left hand	66.7	M	0.4	Hand injury and infection	+	+	+	+	2	0.88	4.31	73.9
26	CRPS to left hand	47.8	M	4.1	Hand surgery	-	+	+	+	0	2.9	3.89	100
28	CRPS to left hand	41.9	M	14.9	Hand trauma injury	+	+	+	+	7	0.33	3.55	100
29	CRPS to left hand	29.2	M	1.8	Hand injury	+	+	+	+	6	0.76	2.06	-100
3	CRPS to right hand	53.4	M	4.5	Shoulder injury	-	+	-	+	9	49.2	15.5	100
8	CRPS to right hand	38.1	M	0.4	Hand and wrist injury	+	+	+	+	8	6.925	2.925	85.7
17	CRPS to right hand	51.6	M	0.4	Hand injury	+	+	+	+	2	4.77	3.53	89.5
18	CRPS to right hand	34.7	M	2.9	Hand fracture	+	+	+	+	7	3.82	1.3	73.3
19	CRPS to right hand	48.7	F	2.6	Wrist fracture and surgery	+	+	+	+	8	12.59	4.94	100
20	CRPS to right hand	46.7	M	7.5	Shoulder injury	-	+	+	+	5	2.37	1.06	66.7
24	CRPS to right hand	56.8	M	14.6	Arm injury	+	+	+	+	10	3.07	0.9	100

25	CRPS to right hand	26.6	M	1.9	Wrist fracture	+	+	+	+	7	3.1	0.98	-66.7
33	CRPS to right hand	21.4	F	2.6	Wrist and Hand trauma injury with surgery	+	+	+	+	0	4.79	3.84	100
41	CRPS to right hand	44.9	M	18.3	Road traffic accident	+	+	+	+	9	3.63	2.45	64.7

Table 2. *Statistical values for the comparison of the locations of map centroids between groups.*

Contrast	Side	F	Degrees of freedom	p	BF₁₀
Controls vs Right CRPS	Left hemisphere	0.002	2,50	0.998	0.001
Controls vs Right CRPS	Right hemisphere	0.025	2,48	0.975	0.306
Controls vs Left CRPS	Left hemisphere	0.005	2,42	0.995	0.309
Controls vs Left CRPS	Right hemisphere	0.001	2,44	0.999	0.311