

1           **GABAergic signaling promotes early-life seizures in epileptic SYNGAP1<sup>+/-</sup> mice**

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22 Pentylentetrazol (PTZ), K-Cl cotransporter 2 (KCC2), Na-K-Cl cotransporter 1 (NKCC1),  
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35 **Abstract**

36 **Objective:** *SYNGAP1* encephalopathy is a developmental and epileptic encephalopathy  
37 caused by pathogenic loss of function variants. *Syngap1*-heterozygous ( $Het^{+/-}$ ) mice  
38 demonstrate progressive epilepsy with multiple seizure phenotypes in adulthood. Here, we  
39 investigate early-life seizures in  $Het^{+/-}$  pups and explore of *Syngap1* encephalopathy during  
40 development.

41 **Methods:** Post-natal day 7 (P7) and P12 mice were investigated by tethered video-  
42 electroencephalographic (vEEG). The effects of GABAergic drugs phenobarbital (PB) and  
43 pentylenetetrazol (PTZ) were investigated at P7 and P12, respectively. 24h tethered vEEG  
44 was performed at P24, and telemetric 24h vEEG with 6h sleep deprivation was performed at  
45 P35. The effect of perampanel (PMP), an AMPA receptor antagonist, was investigated at P24.

46 **Results:**  $Het^{+/-}$  mice have spontaneous early-life seizures that lack an overt behavioral  
47 phenotype. These subclinical seizures are refractory to PB, but the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor (GABA<sub>A</sub>R)  
48 antagonist PTZ significantly reduced seizure frequency suggesting that GABAergic signaling  
49 may promote seizure generation in  $Het^{+/-}$  pups. At juvenile ages,  $Het^{+/-}$  pups recapitulated the  
50 early emergence of high gamma (35-50Hz) during NREM and disruption of behavioral-state  
51 gamma homeostasis. This biomarker was significantly exacerbated in  $Het^{+/-}$  pups after  
52 increasing sleep pressure with sleep deprivation.

53 **Significance:** Seizures during development have adverse effects on cognitive function.  
54 Therefore, an improved understanding of the *SYNGAP1* epilepsy during developmental ages  
55 is necessary to delineate the deleterious interactions between aberrant synaptic function and  
56 recurrent seizures. The development of evidence-based therapies for early-life intervention will  
57 benefit from these insights.

## 58 Introduction

59 SynGAP is a GTPase-activating protein that plays a major role in the development,  
60 structure, and function of excitatory synapses<sup>1</sup>. Pathogenic loss-of-function (LoF) variants in  
61 *SYNGAP1* are a leading cause of non-syndromic intellectual disability (ID), autism spectrum  
62 disorder (ASD), and epilepsy<sup>2-4</sup>. *SYNGAP1* encephalopathy is a generalized developmental  
63 and epileptic encephalopathy (DEE) that includes epilepsy, intellectual disability, severe  
64 behavioral problems, ASD, sleep difficulties, and delayed development of speech and motor  
65 skills (OMIM# 612621)<sup>5</sup>. Truncating, splice-site, missense mutations, and microdeletions have  
66 been reported in patients<sup>5,6</sup>. The majority of pathogenic variants arise from truncating or  
67 missense mutations in *SYNGAP1* exons 4-15, which are within the coding region for the core  
68 domain of the protein<sup>1,5,6</sup>.

69 Divergent trajectories of brain maturation have been identified in DEEs, ASD, and other  
70 neurodevelopmental disorders<sup>7</sup>. During human cortical development, the expression trajectory  
71 of *SYNGAP1* undergoes a robust increase that peaks between birth and the first year of life<sup>8</sup>.  
72 In the postnatal cortex, *SYNGAP1* is expressed predominantly in excitatory and inhibitory  
73 neurons<sup>9</sup>. SynGAP undergoes splicing at its C-terminus to produce four isoforms that are  
74 differentially expressed during development and have distinct effects on synaptic plasticity and  
75 dendritic structure<sup>10,11</sup>. The genotype-phenotype correlation for pathogenic *SYNGAP1* variants  
76 is currently unresolved, however patients with mutations in exons 1-4 have been associated  
77 with a milder ID phenotype<sup>5</sup>. The effects of seizure frequency, age of seizure onset,  
78 antiepileptic drug therapy, and interictal EEG abnormalities on the *SYNGAP1* phenotypic  
79 spectrum are currently unknown.

80 Heterozygous SynGAP mice (Het<sup>+/-</sup>) present with impaired learning and memory,  
81 sensory processing, hyperactivity, sociability, and epilepsy in adulthood<sup>12-19</sup>. During  
82 development, Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups demonstrate precocious unsilencing of thalamocortical synapses,  
83 abnormal dendritic spine dynamics, accelerated neuronal maturation, and reduced experience-  
84 dependent plasticity<sup>13,20,21</sup>. Previous studies suggest that *Syngap1* has a strong genetic control  
85 over synaptic maturation during mouse development<sup>13,20,21</sup>, however the presence of early-life  
86 seizures and their subsequent impact is unknown in Het<sup>+/-</sup> mice.

87 Previously, we have characterized the natural progression of the epilepsy and seizure  
88 phenotypes at advancing adult ages in Het<sup>+/-</sup> mice<sup>15</sup>. This was associated with a significant  
89 impairment in cortical gamma (35-50Hz) and a significant increase in parvalbumin (PV)  
90 interneuron GluA2 expression. Since *SYNGAP1*-related DEE presents early in life and the  
91 expression of SYNGAP1 is highest during the perinatal period, we investigated the epilepsy in  
92 neonatal and juvenile Het<sup>+/-</sup> mice. The juvenile 24h EEGs combined with sleep deprivation  
93 protocols investigated presence of the novel EEG biomarker at the younger age and quantified  
94 the effect of increased sleep pressure on the novel biomarker.

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101 **Methods**

102 **Neonatal EEG- Phenobarbital vs. PTZ**

103 As previously described<sup>22</sup>, EEG recordings were acquired using Sirenia Acquisition  
104 (version 1.6.4, Pinnacle Technology, Inc.) with synchronized video recording. Data were  
105 acquired with 400 Hz sampling rate that had a preamplifier gain of 100, at 0.5–50 Hz. At P7 or  
106 P12, pups were implanted with 3 subdermal EEG electrodes (SWE-L25, Ives EEG Solutions):  
107 1 recording and 1 reference overlaying the left/right parietal cortex, and 1 ground overlaying  
108 the rostrum while under isoflurane anesthesia (3%-1.5%). Electrodes were fixed in place using  
109 cyanoacrylate adhesive. Pups were tethered to a preamplifier inside the recording chamber  
110 and allowed to recover from anesthesia (~10min) before continuous video EEG recording in a  
111 chamber maintained at 37°C with isothermal pads. For PB experiments, P7 pups were  
112 administered a loading dose of PB (25mg/kg, I.P.) after 1h of recording. As previously  
113 described<sup>23</sup>, P12 pups were administered PTZ (20mg/kg, I.P) after 1h of recording. At the end  
114 of all recordings, the electrodes were removed, and pups were returned to the dam.

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116 **Seizures, IIS, and Behavior Scoring**

117 All scoring was performed by a scorer blinded to genotype and sex. Spontaneous  
118 seizures were identified by manual review of all EEGs, as previously described<sup>24</sup>. All seizures  
119 were scored within 10s epochs and were defined as ictal events that consisted of rhythmic  
120 spikes of high amplitude with a diffuse peak frequency  $\geq 7$ -8Hz. All IIS were scored within 5s  
121 epochs and were defined as high amplitude spikes that were not associated with seizures.  
122 Neonatal behavior was scored on video alone with a scorer blind to EEG, genotype, and sex.

123 The behavioral grade of flexor spasms/jerks, waddling, or a behavioral seizure was  
124 administered for each 10s epoch.

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## 126 **24h vEEG/EMG and PMP Dosing at P24**

127 All surgical procedures and perampanel (PMP) dosing implemented in this study were  
128 as previously published<sup>15</sup>. At P18 subdural EEG and suprascapular EMG electrode  
129 implantation was performed under isoflurane anesthesia (4%–1.5%). Briefly, subdural EEG  
130 and suprascapular EMG electrode implantation was performed under isoflurane anesthesia  
131 (4%–1.5%). We used coordinates from bregma for consistent placement of the EEG screw  
132 electrodes. After recovering from electrode implantation surgery, mice were placed in a  
133 recording chamber with food and water provided ad libitum. For perampanel (PMP)  
134 experiments, mice were given a 1mg/kg dose of PMP at 6pm before recording then a second  
135 2mg/kg dose of PMP at 10am.

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## 137 **Sleep Deprivation at P40**

138 Mice were taken from their home cage and briefly anaesthetized using isoflurane for  
139 wireless headcap connection (Pinnacle Technology, 8274-SL). Telemetric EEG recording was  
140 enabled, and mice were placed in a 20cm diameter polycarbonate cage with bedding and  
141 18cm steel sleep deprivation rod. A 30min baseline recording was generated after mice awoke  
142 from anesthesia. After baseline recordings were made, the Sleep Deprivation Unit (Pinnacle  
143 Technology) was activated at speed 3 and mice were sleep deprived for 6h. After 6h, the  
144 Sleep Deprivation Unit was inactivated and a 2cm<sup>2</sup> piece of cloth bedding was placed into the

145 polycarbonate cage alongside food pellets. In the 18h recording period after sleep deprivation,  
146 mice had *ad libitum* access to food and water. Telemetric recordings were ended 24h after  
147 initiation of sleep deprivation, after which mice were returned to their home cages.

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## 149 **Western Blotting**

150 All animals for immunochemical characterizations were anesthetized with chloral  
151 hydrate (90 mg/ml; IP) before being transcardially perfused with ice-cold saline. The whole  
152 fresh brains were removed, the cerebellum was discarded, and the left and right hemispheres  
153 were separated. Brains were further micro-dissected into cortex and hippocampus with deep  
154 gray matter and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  until further processing. Brain tissue homogenates were made  
155 and suspended in TPER cell lysis buffer containing 10% protease/phosphatase inhibitor  
156 cocktail. Total protein amounts were measured using the Bradford protein assay (Bio-Rad,  
157 Hercules, CA, USA) at 570nm and the samples diluted for 50 $\mu\text{g}$  of protein in each sample.  
158 20 $\mu\text{L}$  of protein samples were run on 4-20% gradient tris-glycine gels (Invitrogen, Gand Island,  
159 NY, USA) for 120min at 130V and were transferred onto nitrocellulose membranes overnight at  
160 20V. After the transfer, the nitrocellulose membranes underwent a 1h blocking step in  
161 Rockland buffer before 6h incubation with primary antibodies (for all antibody RRIDS, see Key  
162 Resources Table): mouse  $\alpha$ -KCC2 (1:1000, Millipore), rabbit  $\alpha$ -phospho-KCC2-S940 (1:1000  
163 Aviva Systems Biology), rabbit  $\alpha$ -phospho-KCC2-T1007 (1:1000; Phospho solutions), rabbit  $\alpha$ -  
164 NKCC1 (1:1000 Sigma-Aldrich), and mouse  $\alpha$ -actin (1:10000, LI-COR Biosciences).  
165 Nitrocellulose membranes were then incubated with fluorescent secondary antibodies (1:5000,  
166 goat  $\alpha$ -rabbit and goat  $\alpha$ -mouse, Li-Cor Biosciences, USA). Chemiluminescent protein bands  
167 were analyzed using the Odyssey infrared imaging system 2.1 (LI-COR Biosciences). The

168 optical density of each protein sample was normalized to their corresponding actin bands run  
169 on each lane for internal control. Mean normalized protein expression levels were then  
170 calculated for respective hemispheres.

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## 172 **Results**

### 173 **Electrographic seizures in SYNGAP1<sup>+/-</sup> pups**

174 At P7, continuous 2h vEEG recordings identified the presence of recurrent spontaneous  
175 seizures in Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups (Figure 1A-B). A diverse seizure burden was present in Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups with  
176 paroxysmal EEG activity that included seizures and interictal spiking (IIS; Figure 1B-C).  
177 Comparing the frequency of seizures to the frequency of IIS revealed a positive correlation  
178 (Figure 1D). Recurrent spontaneous seizures persisted in Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups to P12 (Figure 1 E-F), no  
179 significant differences in seizure frequency were identified between males and females (Figure  
180 1F). To evaluate if seizures were associated with any abnormal behavior in Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups, video  
181 was scored independent of the EEG (Figure 2A). At P7, Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups had a significantly greater  
182 number of flexor spasms/jerks than WT<sup>+/+</sup> (Figure 2B and Supplemental Video 1). The  
183 proportion of seizures that were associated with any concomitant behavior was below 50%  
184 (Figure 2C). These seizures were only distinguished by their abnormal EEG patterns and were  
185 not associated with the graded (1-3) behaviors during seizures (Figure 2D and Supplemental  
186 Video 1). In summary, most early-life seizures were electrographic and required vEEG for  
187 identification.

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## 190 **GABAergic signaling is associated with ictogenesis in *Syngap1*<sup>+/-</sup> pups**

191 P7 Het pups with high seizure burdens are refractory to a loading dose of PB, a positive  
192 allosteric modulator of GABA<sub>A</sub>Rs (Figure 3A). The efficacy of PB as an anti-seizure medication  
193 (ASM) is strongly influenced by neuronal Cl<sup>-</sup> regulation<sup>25</sup>. The ubiquitously expressed Cl<sup>-</sup>  
194 importer NKCC1 and chief neuronal Cl<sup>-</sup> exporter KCC2 regulate Cl<sup>-</sup> levels in neurons<sup>25</sup>.  
195 Hippocampal and cortical expression of these Cl<sup>-</sup> cotransporters was investigated to evaluate if  
196 differences in their expression could be implicated in the inefficacy of PB to rescue seizures  
197 (Figure 3A-B). There was no significant difference between genotypes in KCC2 expression or  
198 in the phosphorylation of sites S940<sup>26</sup> and T1007<sup>27</sup> (Figure 3D-E). KCC2 expression was  
199 significantly greater in the hippocampus of WT<sup>+/+</sup> pups compared to cortex (P = 0.0008), but  
200 not Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups (P = .2178). Furthermore, the expression of NKCC1 and the ratio of  
201 NKCC1/KCC2 were also not significantly different between genotypes (Figure 3F-G).  
202 Previously, the GABA<sub>A</sub>R antagonist PTZ was administered to a KCC2 hypofunction mutant  
203 mouse model<sup>26</sup> that transitioned to status epilepticus after PTZ administration<sup>23</sup>. Therefore,  
204 PTZ (20mg/kg IP) was administered to P7 Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups to investigate if a reduction in  
205 GABAergic tone could induce status epilepticus (Figure 3H). However, PTZ reduced the  
206 frequency of seizure events and the total duration of seizures (Figure 3I-J). These results  
207 suggest that GABAergic signaling is ictogenic in Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups.

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## 209 **Gamma during NREM is high in juvenile *Syngap1*<sup>+/-</sup> mice**

210 In adult Het<sup>+/-</sup> mice at P60 and P120, gamma power (35-50Hz) during NREM was  
211 higher than WT<sup>+/+</sup><sup>15</sup>. It is currently unknown if the lack of behavioral state modulation in gamma

212 power is present at younger ages. At P25, Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups demonstrated high gamma power during  
213 NREM over 24h (Figure 4 A-B). Previously at P120, low dose PMP (2mg/kg intraperitoneal)  
214 reduced gamma power during NREM<sup>15</sup>. Low dose PMP restored cortical gamma behavioral-  
215 state modulation in juveniles Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups (Figure 4 C), similar to previous results in adult Het<sup>+/-</sup>  
216 mice<sup>15</sup>. To investigate if high gamma power during NREM is dependent upon sleep pressure,  
217 P35 mice underwent 6h of sleep deprivation during telemetric vEEG recording (Figure 4 D-E).  
218 Sleep deprivation significantly exacerbated high gamma power during NREM in P35 Hets<sup>+/-</sup>  
219 (Figure 4 F-G). Importantly, no significant differences in NREM delta (0.5-4Hz) power were  
220 apparent between genotypes, a proxy for slow wave sleep compensation (Figure 4H).

221

## 222 Discussion

223 In this study, we found that *Syngap1* haploinsufficiency causes spontaneous recurrent  
224 seizures early in life (P7-P12). During development, persistent seizures and interictal  
225 epileptiform activity worsen developmental regression, cognitive function, and cause  
226 behavioral impairments<sup>28,29</sup>. Acute seizures alone, without a contributing genetic mutation, can  
227 disrupt thalamocortical critical period plasticity and are associated with impaired sensorimotor  
228 integration<sup>30</sup>. The phenotypic spectrum of *SYNGAP1* DEE may be strongly influenced by the  
229 interaction between the aberrant synaptic plasticity caused by *SYNGAP1* haploinsufficiency  
230 and the concurrent epilepsy<sup>5,29</sup>. Specifically, uncontrolled early-life seizures may compound the  
231 neurodevelopmental impairments caused by the lack of functional *SYNGAP1*. Our data  
232 suggests that early in life (P7), before *SYNGAP1* reaches its peak in forebrain expression<sup>10</sup>,  
233 *Syngap1* haploinsufficiency results in aberrant epileptic circuits. Further, juvenile EEGs  
234 combined with sleep deprivation protocols identified the presence of impaired cortical gamma

235 and the exacerbating effect of increased sleep pressure on this recently identified EEG  
236 biomarker.

### 237 **Early- life seizures in *Het*<sup>+/-</sup> pups are electrographic and vary in frequency**

238 Ongoing natural history studies in the growing *SYNGAP1* patient population are making  
239 it clear that epilepsy is commonly associated with *SYNGAP1* haploinsufficiency. Due to more  
240 awareness and early-life screening, seizures have been diagnosed in *SYNGAP1* patients as  
241 early as 4 months of life<sup>5</sup>. Our data indicates that many of these early-life seizures may require  
242 EEG for clinical diagnosis, as the majority of the seizures did not have an overt motor  
243 component. Subclinical seizures are a type of seizure that does not present any clinical signs  
244 or symptoms generally associated with seizures but show abnormal brain activity in the form of  
245 synchronous spike-wave discharges on EEG. Long term vEEG monitoring in developmental  
246 disorders associated with epilepsy can help capture these electrographic discharges. Our  
247 results suggest that early long-duration vEEG monitoring is warranted in all children with  
248 suspected pathogenic *SYNGAP1* variants.

249 In our experiments, even standardized EEG recording durations on pups with identical  
250 mutations in *Syngap1* demonstrated wide variability in the incidence of early-life seizures in  
251 both sexes. This variability is clinically relevant as short vEEG monitoring may not be sufficient  
252 to identify the epilepsy. Our results allow for the future identification of susceptibility factors  
253 driving this variability in seizure frequency during development. As the genetic screenings in  
254 the future will inevitably start occurring earlier in postnatal life as part of genetic screening  
255 panels, vEEG recording will help classify the early-life epilepsy in *SYNGAP1* DEE. An improved  
256 understanding of the epilepsy may help classify the phenotypic variability within *SYNGAP1*  
257 DEE patient cohorts. The contribution that early-life seizures have on the natural history of

258 *SYNGAP1* DEE is an outstanding question of critical importance for future therapies. The  
259 further characterization of the early-life seizures in *Syngap1* DEE models will assist these  
260 endeavors.

### 261 **An emerging GABAergic hypothesis in *SYNGAP1* DEE**

262 Our data suggests that GABAergic signaling during development promotes ictogenesis  
263 in *Syngap1* DEE. A loading dose of PB, a positive allosteric modulator of GABA<sub>A</sub>Rs, failed to  
264 curb P7 seizures. In contrast, the GABA<sub>A</sub>R antagonist PTZ significantly reduced seizures at  
265 P12. These findings suggest that GABAergic signaling may contribute to early-life seizure  
266 generation in *Syngap1* DEE. In mature neurons both the neuronal Cl<sup>-</sup> gradient and efficacy of  
267 GABA<sub>A</sub>-mediated synaptic transmission is influenced by the Cl<sup>-</sup> exporter KCC2 maintaining a  
268 low intracellular Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration ([Cl<sup>-</sup>]<sub>i</sub>)<sup>25</sup>. Early in brain development, KCC2 expression is low  
269 and [Cl<sup>-</sup>]<sub>i</sub> is high, resulting in depolarizing GABAergic signaling<sup>31</sup>. In excitotoxic conditions,  
270 KCC2 hypofunction may facilitate the emergence of refractory seizures<sup>23,32</sup>. ~50% of  
271 *SYNGAP1* children are known to have refractory seizures<sup>533</sup>. Here, we report refractoriness to  
272 a first-line positive GABA<sub>A</sub>R modulator at P7. However, KCC2 expression and phosphorylation  
273 levels were not found to be deficient nor was the NKCC1 expression high. These findings  
274 indicate that Cl<sup>-</sup> cotransporter functional deficits may not play a role in the unique drug  
275 responses reported here. Previous studies have identified increased synaptic inhibition during  
276 development in Het<sup>+/-</sup> mice<sup>13,20</sup>, supporting the results reported here.

277 *Syngap1* has been shown to play a critical role in GABAergic circuit development and  
278 function<sup>16,34</sup>. Previously in adult Het<sup>+/-</sup> mice our group identified an increased expression in the  
279 calcium impermeable AMPA subunit GluA2 in PV interneurons and disrupted behavioral-  
280 dependent gamma oscillations<sup>15</sup>. Here we document the early emergence of abnormal

281 behavioral-dependent gamma oscillations with no evidence of spontaneous seizures at P24-  
282 P40. This may indicate that abnormal gamma is independent of seizure occurrence and  
283 represents an underlying circuit dysfunction. Future studies will delineate the impact of early  
284 life seizures on these novel biomarkers.

### 285 **Increasing sleep pressure further aggravates abnormal cortical gamma**

286 During wake, experience dependent plasticity strengthens excitatory neuronal synapses  
287 that permit the storage of information. Sleep is a necessary behavior that allows neurons to  
288 consolidate information and permits synaptic renormalization<sup>35,36</sup>. Sleep-wake patterns and  
289 alertness level during wakefulness are known to be modulated by two interacting processes:  
290 one is the sleep pressure that increases as a saturating exponential during wakefulness; the  
291 second are the circadian circuits in the brain that drive the internal oscillatory rhythm that run  
292 our 24h cycles<sup>36</sup>. Numerous studies have documented slow wave sleep compensation and its  
293 characteristics following sleep deprivation. Additionally, the detrimental effects of prolonged  
294 sleep deprivation on cognitive performance are also well established<sup>37-40</sup>. Our previous study  
295 established significant disruption of cortical gamma homeostasis in adult Het<sup>+/-</sup> mice<sup>15</sup>. The  
296 identification of normal slow wave sleep compensation to the increased sleep pressure in both  
297 WT<sup>+/+</sup> and Het<sup>+/-</sup> pups highlight the uniqueness of the qEEG biomarker related to gamma  
298 homeostasis which is known to depend on function of fast-spiking PV interneurons<sup>41,42</sup>.  
299 Significant aggravation of cortical gamma homeostasis during NREM following increase in  
300 sleep pressure further uncovers the role of PV dysfunction in circuits governing sleep  
301 homeostasis.

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303 **Conclusion**

304 For the first time in a *Syngap1* encephalopathy mouse model, we have identified the  
305 occurrence of early-life seizures. The anti-seizure response to a GABA<sub>A</sub>R antagonist suggests  
306 a critical role for GABAergic signaling in early ictogenesis. Any prospective evidence-based  
307 therapies will have to consider the effect of repeated seizures during development on the  
308 pathophysiology of the *SYNGAP1* DEE.

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329

330 **Author Contributions**

331 SDK conceived the project. BJS, PAK, and SDK acquired data. BJS, PAK, SGA, and SDK  
332 analyzed data. BJS, PAK, and SDK wrote the paper.

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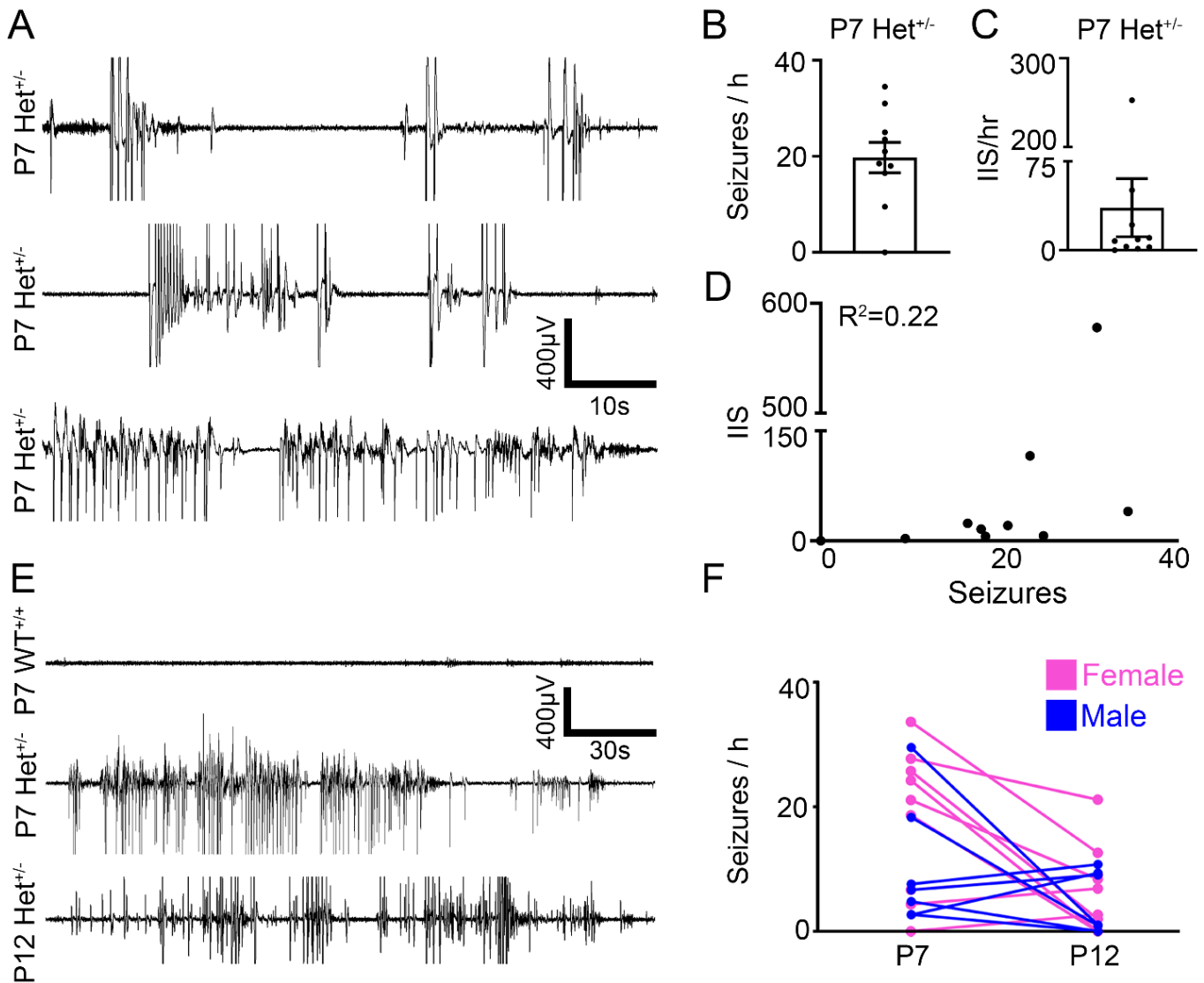
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## Figure 1

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473 **Figure 1. Early Life Seizures in SYNGAP1<sup>+/-</sup> Pups.** (A) Representative EEG traces of  
474 spontaneous epileptiform discharges in P7 male and female Het mice show bursts of spike  
475 wave discharges of variable durations. (B) Seizure burden and (C) Interictal spikes (IIS)  
476 per h at P7 (n=10). (D) Correlation of seizure burden (i.e., ictal events >6 sec duration) and IIS  
477 at P7. (E) EEG traces from WT P7, Het P7, and Het P12 mice. (F) Seizures per h at P7 and P12  
478 for Het mice (n=5 male and n=10 female). For 1h P7 WT and P7 Het EEG traces see  
479 Supplemental Figure 1.

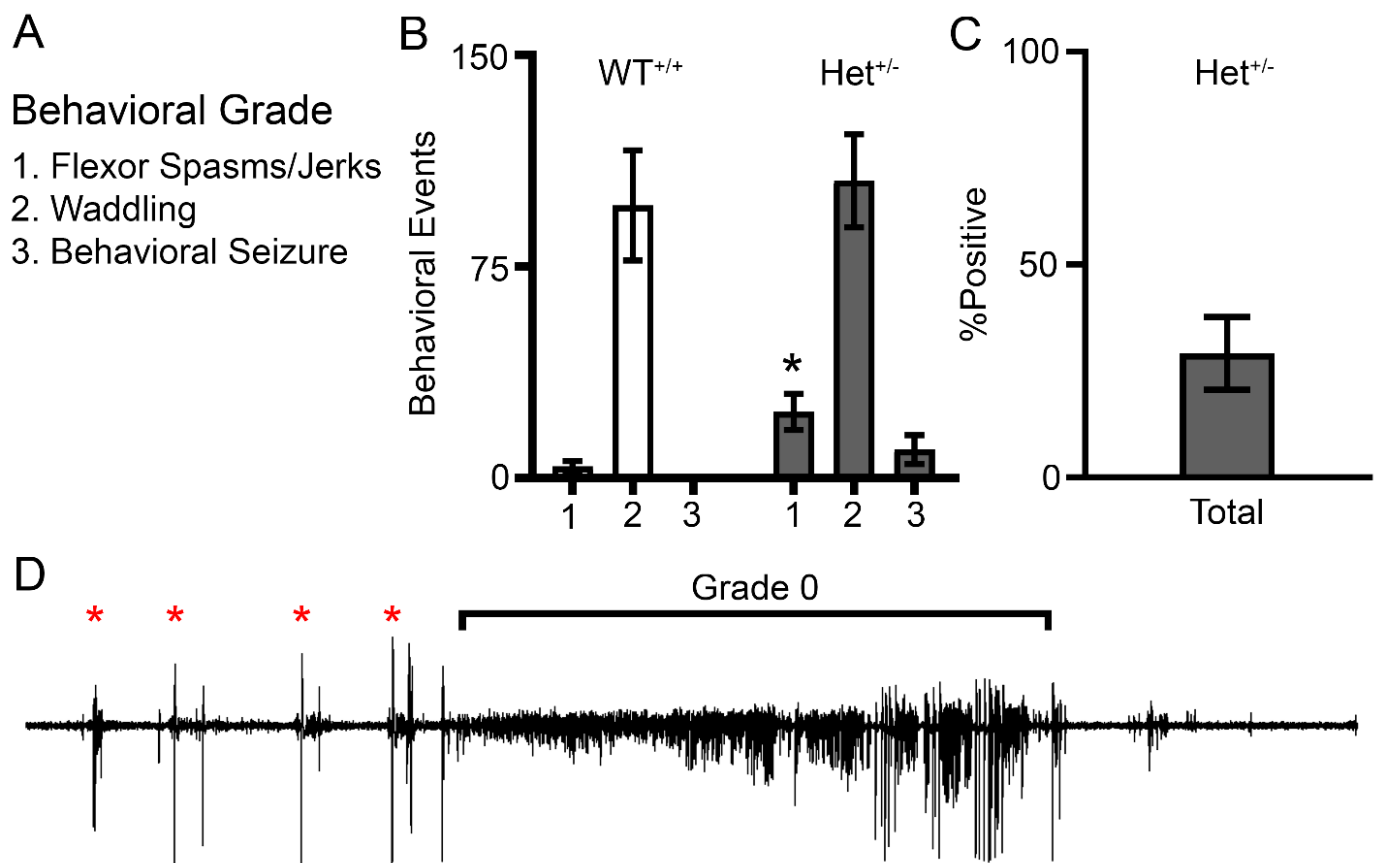
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Figure 2



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485 **Figure 2. P7 SYNGAP1<sup>+/-</sup> epileptiform discharges are subclinical.** (A) Graded behavioral  
486 grading parameters on video for P7 neonatal mice during vEEG recording. (B) WT and Het  
487 behaviors during recording (n=6 WT and n=8 Het). (C) Proportion of Het behaviors scored on  
488 video only those that were associated with a concomitant epileptiform discharge on EEG. (D)  
489 Representative Grade 0 epileptiform discharge that was graded as an electrographic only  
490 seizure. Representative trace recorded from a Het pup. Red asterisks denote Grade 1  
491 behaviors of flexor spasms/jerks followed by a ~2 min long grade 0 seizure. See Supplemental  
492 Video 1 of the same ictal event with synchronous video. \*P<0.05 by two-tailed t-test.

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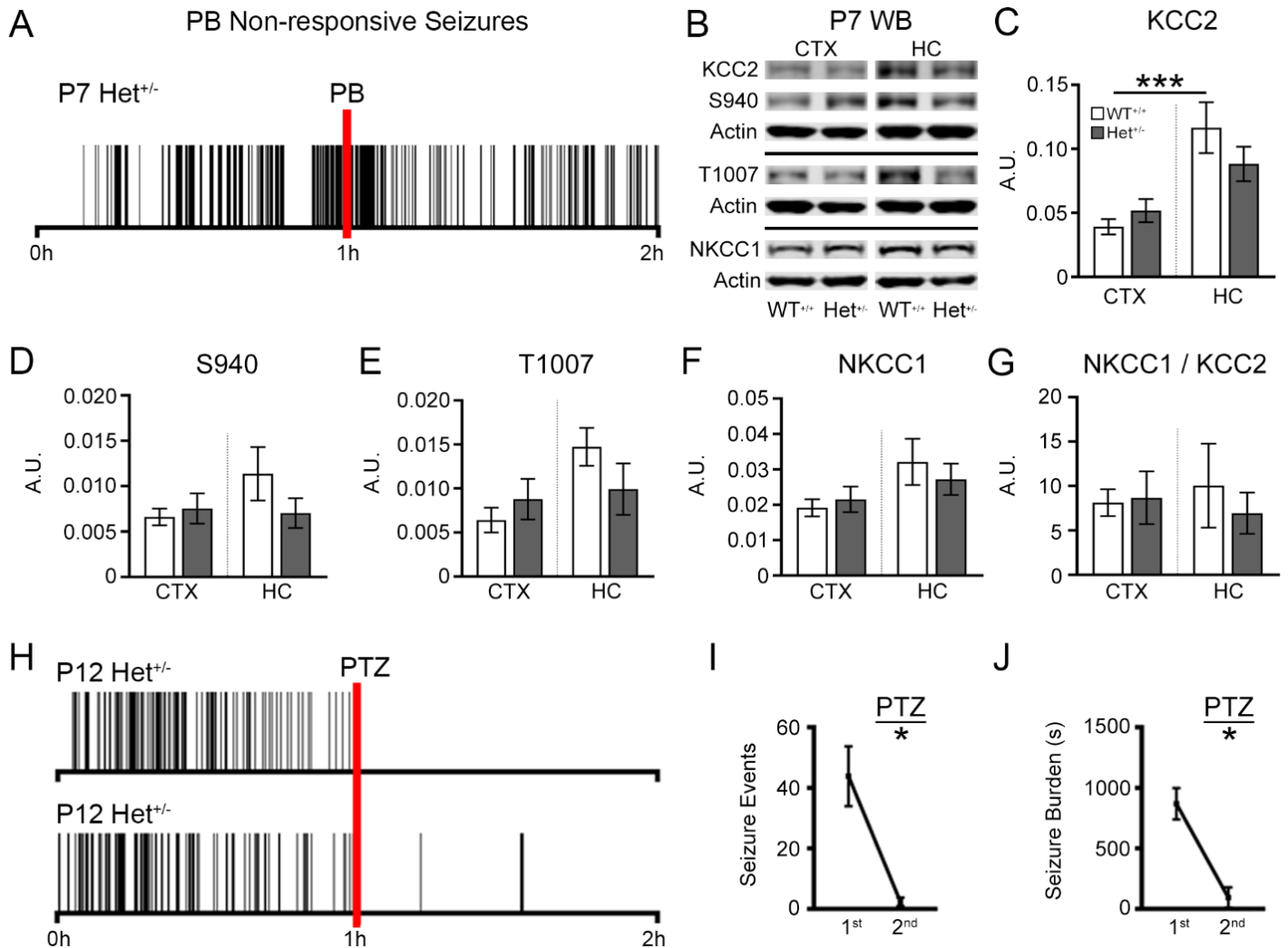
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### Figure 3

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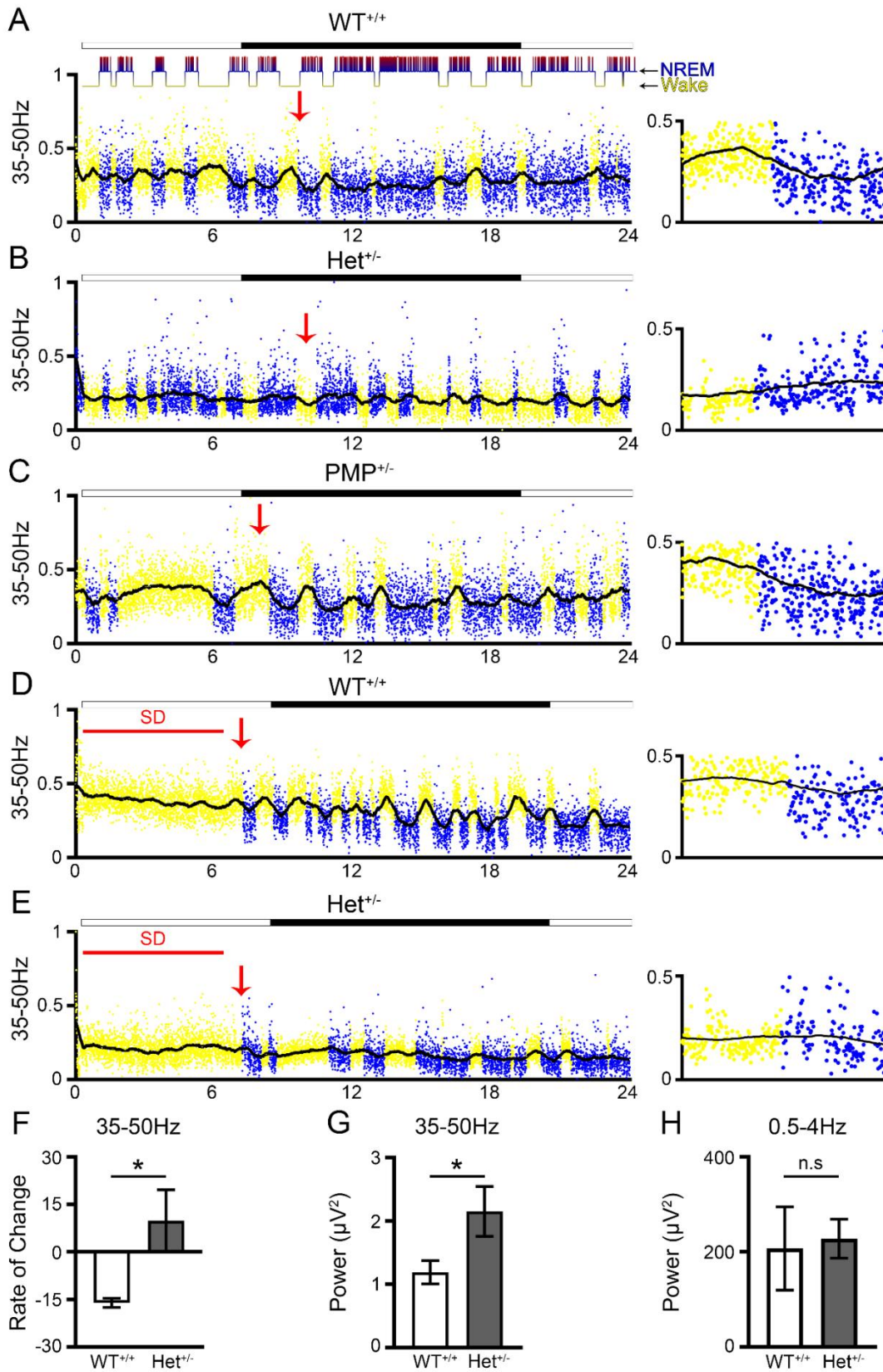


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502 **Figure 3. GABAergic signaling is associated with seizure activity in SYNGAP1<sup>+/-</sup> mice.**  
 503 (A) Seizure frequency raster plot of a P7 Het mouse during 2h vEEG recording (n=2). Red bar  
 504 represents a loading dose of PB (25mg/kg; IP injection). (B) Representative western blots  
 505 showing KCC2, S940, T1007, and NKCC1 expression at P7 in WT and Het mice. All proteins  
 506 of interest were normalized to  $\beta$ -actin. (C) KCC2 (n=12 samples per group), (D) S940 (n=6  
 507 samples per group), (E) T1007 (n=6 samples per group), and (F) NKCC1 expression in the  
 508 cortex (CTX) and hippocampus (HC) of WT and Het mice (n=6 samples per group). (G)  
 509 NKCC1 to KCC2 ratios for CTX and HC. WB results were gathered from n=3 mice per group.  
 510 (H) Seizure frequency raster plot of P12 Het mice during 2h vEEG recording. Red bar  
 511 represents a 20mg/kg dose of PTZ (IP injection). (I) 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> h seizure events, and (J) 1<sup>st</sup>  
 512 and 2<sup>nd</sup> h seizure burdens (n=3 P12 Het). (C-G) \*P<0.05 and \*P<0.001 by one-way ANOVA. (I-  
 513 J) \*P<0.05 by paired t-test.

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Figure 4



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516 **Figure 4. High Gamma Power during NREM in juvenile P24 Syngap1<sup>+/-</sup> mice.** (A) WT  
517 gamma (35-50Hz) trace for every 10 sec epoch over a 24h continuous EEG recording period  
518 demonstrates high gamma power during wake and low gamma power during NREM. Every dot  
519 represents gamma power for a 10s epoch. Yellow denotes wake-state, and blue denotes  
520 NREM sleep. The solid black line represents a running average. Hypnogram above graph A  
521 shows sleep and wake states for same mouse over 24h. Light cycles are depicted above  
522 graphs as lights on (white) or lights off (black). Red arrowheads show wake/sleep transition  
523 points for expanded timescale panels shown to the right. (B) Gamma power in juvenile P24  
524 Het mice failed to transition to the lower NREM levels. (C) Low-dose PMP administration  
525 restored behavioral state-dependent gamma power in the same HET mice at P25. (D) 6h sleep  
526 deprivation (SD) during 24h-hour EEG recording in in WT and (E) Het mice. (F) Rate of  
527 change for gamma power during Wake to NREM transitions. (G) NREM Gamma power after  
528 6h SD. (H) NREM Delta power (0.5-4Hz) after 6h SD.\*P<0.05 two tailed t-test. (n=2 mice per  
529 group).

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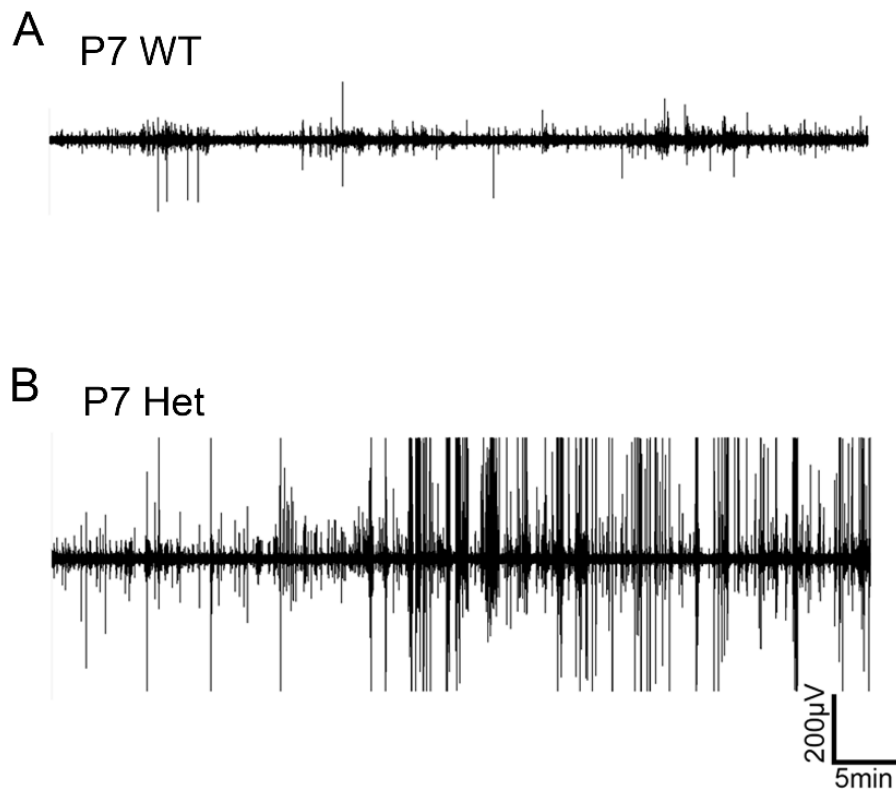
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## Supplemental Figure 1

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552 **Supplemental Figure 1. 1h EEG trace showing burden of spontaneous seizures in**  
553 **SYNGAP1<sup>+/-</sup> mice. (A) 1h WT and (B) Het trace at P7.**

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**Supplemental Table 1**

<b>Reagent type (species) or resource</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Source Reference</b>	<b>Identifiers</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Genetic reagent ( <i>M. musculus</i> )	B6.129-Syngap1 tm1Rlh/J	Jax	RRID:IMSR_JAX:008890	Dr. Richard L Haganir, Johns Hopkins University
Chemical compound, drug	Phenobarbital (PB)	MilliporeSigma	P5178	N/A
Chemical compound, drug	Pentylentetrazol (PTZ)	MilliporeSigma	P6500	N/A
Chemical compound, drug	DMSO	Sigma	D8418	N/A
Software, algorithm	Graphpad Prism	Graphpad Software	RRID:SCR_002798	8
Software, algorithm	Sirenia	Pinnacle Technology	pinnaclet.com/sirenia	3-Channel EEG/EMG Tethered Mouse System
Antibody	mouse $\alpha$ KCC2	Aviva Systems Biology OASE00240	AB_2721238	1:1000; WB
Antibody	rabbit $\alpha$ pKCC2-S940	Aviva Systems Biology OAPC00188	AB_2721198	1:1000; WB
Antibody	rabbit $\alpha$ pKCC2-1007	PhosphoSolutions p1551-1007	AB_2716769	1:1000; WB
Antibody	rabbit $\alpha$ NKCC1	Sigma-Aldrich AB3560P	AB_91514	1:1000; WB
Antibody	mouse $\alpha$ actin	LI-COR Biosciences 926-42213	AB_2637092	1:10000; WB
Antibody	goat $\alpha$ mouse IgG, IRDye® 800CW Conjugated	LI-COR Biosciences 926-32210	AB_621842	1:5000; WB
Antibody	goat $\alpha$ rabbit IgG Antibody, IRDye® 680LT Conjugated	LI-COR Biosciences 926-68021	AB_10706309	1:5000; WB

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