From Basic Mechanisms to Impaired Driving in Epileptic Unconsciousness

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Why Discuss Consciousness and Epilepsy?

- Loss of consciousness has major negative impact on patient quality of life
  - Injuries: driving, falls, burns, drowning
  - Cognitive lapses: work and school
  - Social stigma

- Impact on quality of life is at least as great as that seen with motor convulsions, yet more common

- Potential for new therapies including surgical, medications, behavioral
Impaired consciousness in epilepsy: mechanisms and clinical significance
Fabienne Picard, MD and Hal Blumenfeld, MD, PhD       ILAE Rome, 2011

- Introduction
  Fabienne Picard, MD

- Functional Anatomy of Disorder of Consciousness
  Steven Laureys, MD, PhD

- Neuroimaging, the Default Mode Network and Unconsciousness in Generalized Epilepsy
  Jean Gotman, PhD

- Electrophysiology of Impaired Consciousness in Focal Epilepsy
  Fabrice Bartolomei, MD, PhD

- Overview: From Basic Mechanisms to Impaired Driving in Epileptic Unconsciousness
  Hal Blumenfeld, MD, PhD
The “Consciousness System”
Conclusions and Implications

Temporal    Temporal
TC ictal    TC post-ict    TC ictal
Absence    Absence    Absence

H Blumenfeld