

## Sleep Changes Through Aging & Behavioral Approaches To Improve Sleep

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#### Overview

- Normal sleep & Why we sleep
- Sleep architecture changes with aging
- Sleep disruptors
- Evidence based sleep interventions
- Taking control of your sleep-wake cycle



# What is normal sleep & Why do we do it?



#### **SLEEP STAGES**



DEEP SLEEP {SWS} DREAMING {REM} PHYSICAL RECOVERY MENTAL RECOVERY



#### What we know so far..

- Sleep is strictly regulated in all animal species
- Prolonged sleep deprivation is fatal
- Impossible to naturally deprive an animal of sleep for more than 24h – (sleep-wake occurs)
- Why do we sleep?
  - We need off-line time
  - Clean, Organize, Refresh
  - Preserve synaptic efficiency & brain plasticity





# How does sleep change as we age?

#### **Sleep Architecture**

NREM- 75% - 80% sleep time

- Stage 1 (3-8%) transition from wakefulness
- Stage 2 (45-55%) muscle activity decreases
- Stages 3 & 4- (15-20%) slow wave sleep
- REM- 20-25% sleep time
- First episode occurs 60-90 min after onset of NREM





Appleton & Lange Kandel/Schwartz/Jessell Principles of Neural Science Fig. 47.01

#### SLEEP CYCLES CHANGE WITH AGE

	Age 20	Age 40	Age 60	Age 70	Age 80
Time to fall asleep	16 minutes	17 minutes	18 minutes	18.5 minutes	19 minutes
Total sleep time	7.5 hours	7 hours	6.2 hours	6 hours	5.8 hours
Time in regular sleep	47%	51%	53%	55%	57%
Time in slow wave sleep	20%	15%	10%	9%	7.5%
Time in REM sleep	22%	21%	20%	19%	17%
Time asleep while in bed	95%	88%	84%	82%	79%

JamesClear.com

Source: Sleep, Nov. 1, 2004, pp. 1255-73





Appleton & Lange Kandel/Schwartz/Jessell *Principles of Neural Science* Fig. 47.02 What are the recommendations for sleep as we age?

#### SLEEP DURATION RECOMMENDATIONS



#### **Sleep in Infants/Babies**

- Newborns 3mo
  - sleep 16-18 hours/24
  - Polyphasic sleep
    - 50 300 minutes sleep
    - 90 180 minutes wake
- 1-2 months hunger drives wake/sleep
- 3 months cue to light/dark cycle
- 6 months consolidate sleep at night
  - need 14-15 hours / 24 hours
    - 9-12h/night + 2-4.5h/naps



#### **Sleep in Adolescents**

- 13 18 years need 9.5 to 11 hours
- Naps reappear to curtail sleep debt
- Sleep patterns shift to later sleep-wake cycle



#### Sleep in Adults & Older Adults



- Sleep patterns change through adulthood... the quantity remains the same
- 18 50+ years need 7.5 to 9 hours

 Sleep becomes more fragmented with age... may need naps to fill gaps

## **Sleep Disruptors**

## Physical







## Physical

- Illnesses
  - Cardiac
  - Respiratory
  - Musculoskeletal
  - Gastrointestinal



## Mental/Emotional

- Depression
- Schizophrenia
- Bipolar (manic-depression)



 Every day stressors can be problems too



## Lifestyle

- Timing
  - Jet lag
  - Exercise
  - Work

#### Environment

- Noise
- Light
- Temperature
- Mixed signals

- Chemicals
  - Tobacco
  - Caffeine
  - Alcohol



#### **Common Sleep Disorders**

#### Insomnia

- Sleep Movement Disorders (RLS)
  - Restless leg syndrome
- Sleep Disordered Breathing
  - Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)

#### Insomnia



- Difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, &/or nonrestorative sleep a majority of nights for greater than 1 month duration
- Affect 35% of the general population & 69% of the medical population

#### **Sleep Movement Disorders**

- Restless leg syndrome (RLS)
- Predisposing factors pregnancy, anemia, rheumatoid arthritis
- Diagnosis self report, PSG record movement @ sleep onset
- Treatment Individualized
  - Vite B12, Folate, Iron
  - Healthy Sleep Habits
  - Prescriptions



#### What does OSA look like?

#### **Opened Upper Airway**

Closed Upper Airway



Clear and open upper airway allows air to flow freely to and from the lungs.



Snoring and apnoeas (breathing pauses) are observed when the upper airway collapses.





#### **OSA and Memory**

- Decreased oxygen to the brain
- Increased brain inflammation (oxidative stress)
- Structural changes
  - Amyloid plaque build up
  - White matter brain loss



Taking Control of your Sleep-Wake Cycle

#### **Getting Good Sleep**

- Pharmacotherapy/Devices
- Behavioral therapy
- Good sleep habits
  - Exercise in your AM
  - No caffeine 5-8 hrs of bed
  - Know your light sources
  - Quiet, Cool, Dark
  - Establish a 'bedtime' routine
  - Leave the stress outside the bedroom

http://www.sleepeducation.org



#### Application

Setting goals for good sleep

- Activity
- Timing
- Frequency



#### Give it a try

- I will exercise for 30 minutes in the first half of my day 4 of 7 days of the week.
- Activity = exercise for 30 minutes
- **Timing** = first half of day
- **Frequency** = 4 of 7 days of the week

#### Now it is your turn

- Write down two goals you would like to try in the next few weeks to improve your sleep.
- Activity/Timing/Frequency
- Be realistic and kind to yourself

