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# Disturbed sleep in obstructive sleep apnea expressed in a single index of sleep disturbance (SDI)

Gestörter Schlaf bei obstruktiver Schlafapnoe ausgedrückt in einem Schlafstörungsindex (SDI)

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## Zusammenfassung

Der Schlafstörungsindex (Sleep Disturbance Index – SDI) ist ein neuer, auf Schlafvariablen aus polysomnographischen Untersuchungen basierender Index, der Schlafqualität in einem einzelnen Wert beschreibt. Er wurde im Rahmen der Lärmwirkungsforschung in Untersuchungen mit eher jungen Probanden entwickelt und getestet.

In dieser Untersuchung wird der SDI erstmals in einem klinischen Setting angewendet. 79 Patienten, die mit Verdacht auf Schlafapnoe überwiesen wurden, erhielten eine diagnostische Polysomnographie. Für jede dieser Messungen wurde der SDI berechnet.

Die SDI-Werte dieser klinischen Stichprobe waren höher als die normaler junger Probanden. Die SDI-Werte waren normalverteilt und korrespondierten eng ( $r = 0,47$ ) mit dem Apnoe-Hypopnoe-Index als Maß der Krankheitsausprägung. Patienten mit ausgeprägteren Atmungsstörungen haben einen höheren SDI, was auf stärker gestörten Schlaf hinweist. Ein explorativer Vergleich der SDI-Werte aus dieser Untersuchung mit SDI-Werten aus Lärmexpositionsstudien zeigt höhere SDI-Werte für die Patientenstichprobe. Der SDI erscheint als vielversprechender Ansatz, Schlaf mit einem einzelnen Wert zu beschreiben und Vergleiche der Effekte von z.B. Umwelteinflüssen und Krankheiten auf den Schlaf zu vereinfachen.

## Summary

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The Sleep Disturbance Index (SDI) is a novel index based on polysomnography describing sleep quality in a single score. It was developed and tested with young subjects in the context of research on the effects of noise on sleep. In this study, it is applied in a clinical setting for the first time. A total of 79 patients with suspected sleep apnea received diagnostic polysomnography and the SDI was calculated for these patients.

SDI scores in this clinical sample were higher than those of normal young sleepers. They were normally distributed and showed a rather close relationship ( $r = 0.47$ ) to the Apnea-Hypopnea Indices as measures of disease severity. Patients

with more breathing disorders tend to have a higher SDI indicating more impaired sleep. An explorative comparison of SDI scores of this clinical group with SDI scores obtained in noise exposition studies showed higher SDI scores for the patient group. The SDI seems a promising approach to describe sleep in a single score and facilitate comparisons of the effects of, e. g. environmental and medical factors affecting sleep.

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Prof. Dr. G. Mayer, Schwalmstadt-Treysa, Germany, served as guest editor for the manuscript and was responsible for all editorial decisions, including the selection of reviewers. The policy applies to all manuscripts with author's from the editor's institution.

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## Schlüsselwörter

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- Schlafqualität
- Schlafapnoe

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- sleep quality
- sleep apnea

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