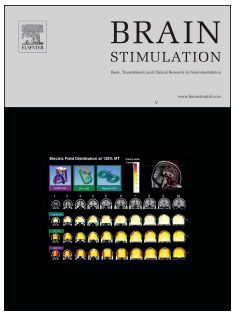
Accepted Manuscript



Transcranial direct current stimulation unveils covert consciousness

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PII: S1935-861X(18)30065-2

DOI: 10.1016/j.brs.2018.02.002

Reference: BRS 1190

To appear in: *Brain Stimulation*

Received Date: 21 January 2018

Revised Date: 29 January 2018

Accepted Date: 2 February 2018

Please cite this article as: Thibaut A, Chatelle C, Vanhaudenhuyse A, Martens G, Cassol H, Martial C, Carrière M, Barra A, Laureys S, Gosseries O, Transcranial direct current stimulation unveils covert consciousness, *Brain Stimulation* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.brs.2018.02.002.

Transcranial direct current stimulation unveils covert consciousness

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Dear Editor,

Thanks to modern neuroimaging techniques it appears that 30% of patients clinically unresponsive (i.e., unresponsive wakefulness syndrome – UWS [1]) retain cerebral functions that are similar to patients in a minimally conscious state – MCS [1], as assessed by fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography (FDG-PET), functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and electroencephalography (EEG). These patients are newly labeled as MCS* or with cognitive-motor dissociation [2,3]. Even if the majority of them will regain some signs of consciousness, techniques to promote their recovery are still lacking. In this context, transcranial