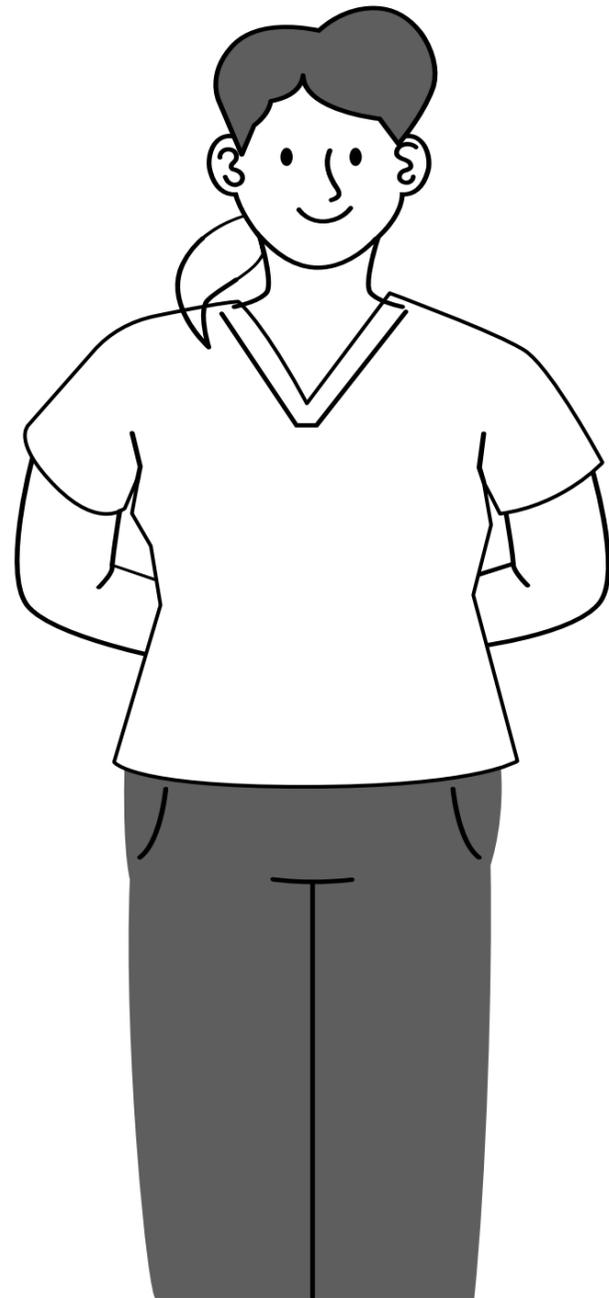


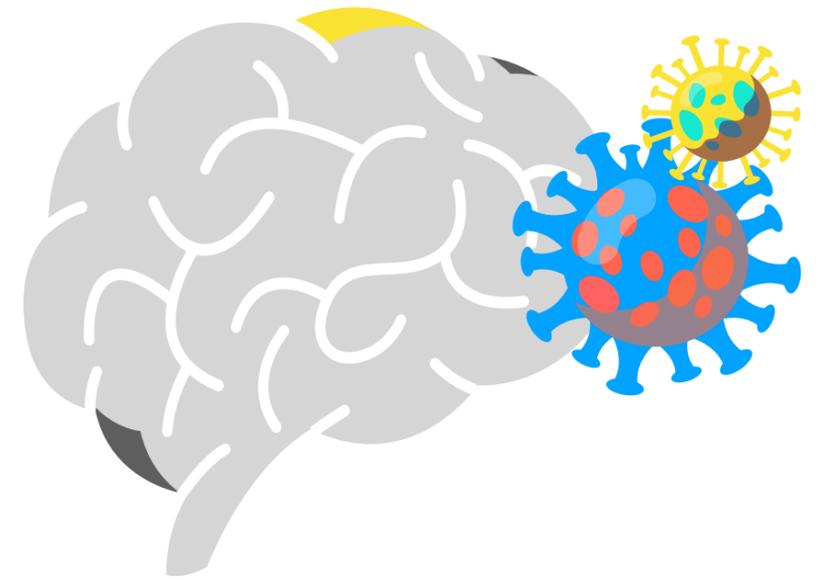
The Effect of LiuZiJue on Frontal Lobe Oxyhemoglobin levels in Adults with Long COVID-19 Syndrome and Healthy Adults: *A Functional Near-infrared Spectroscopy prospective study*

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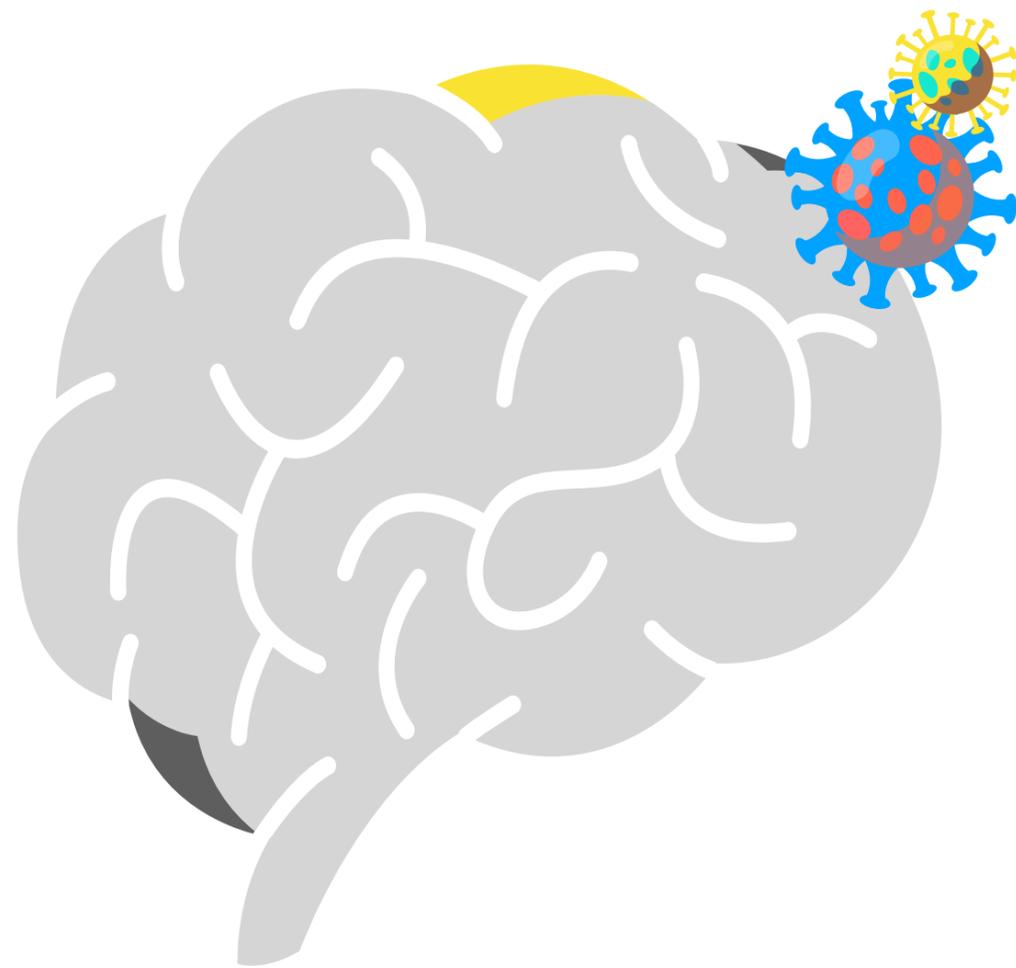


Introduction





Introduction



- Long COVID-19 syndrome
- Cognitive domains: memory, attention, and executive functions
- Possible mechanism (Dondaine et al., 2022): **Cerebral hypoxia**
- Prefrontal oxygenation



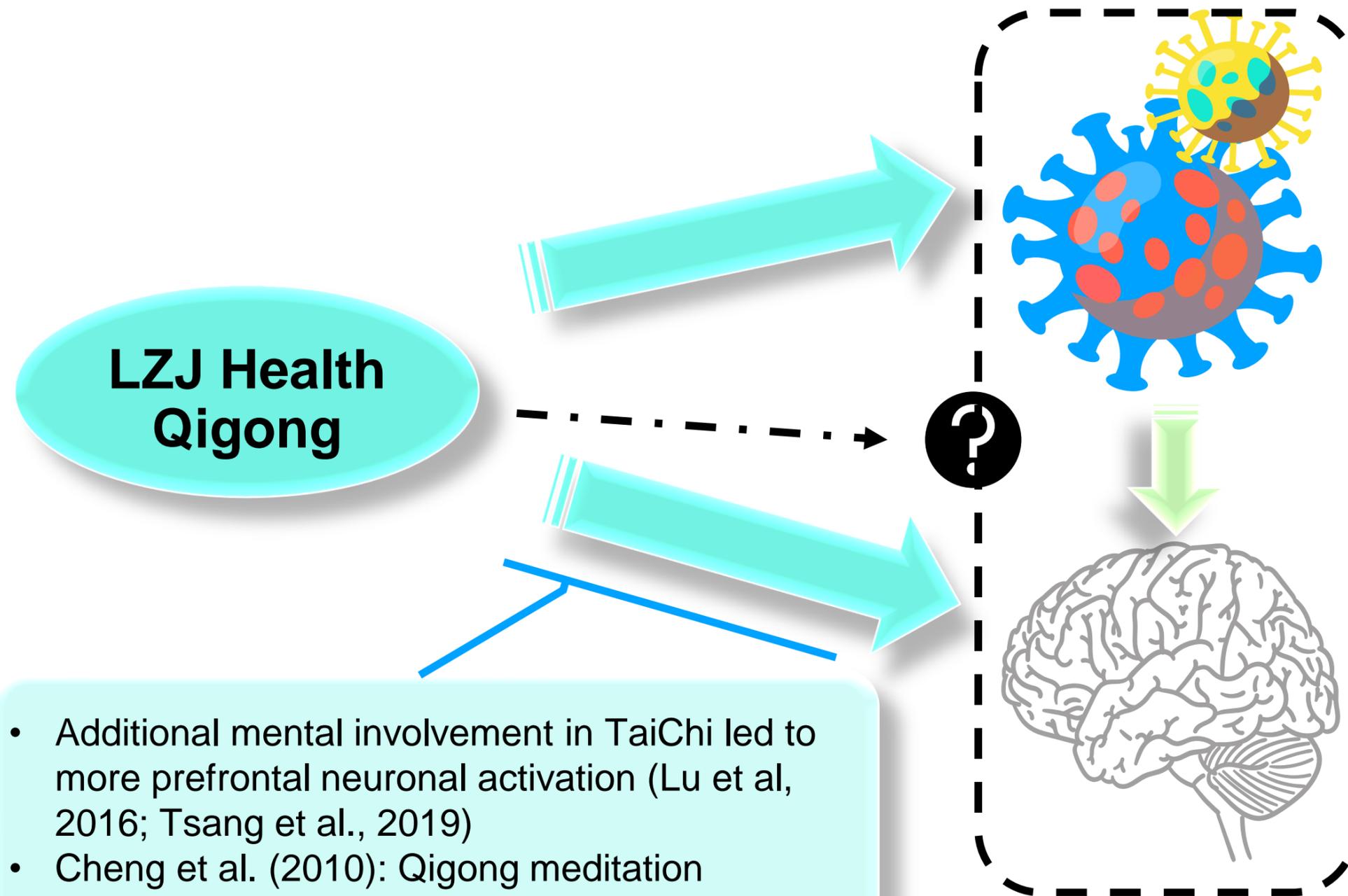
Introduction



- LiuZiJue Health Qigong (LZJ)
- Producing Six sounds - “Xu, He, Hu, Si, Chui and Xi,” accompanied by low intensity body movements and mindfulness



Introduction



- Additional mental involvement in TaiChi led to more prefrontal neuronal activation (Lu et al, 2016; Tsang et al., 2019)
- Cheng et al. (2010): Qigong meditation increased O2Hb and decreased deoxyhemoglobin (HHb) in PFC in practitioners

- Tang et al. (2021) suggested improvement in functional capacity and quality of life in discharged COVID-19 patients with LZJ.

- Improved functional connection and increased recruitment of cognitive-related brain structures and functions in MCI elderly (Su et. al., 2022)
- Vocal vibrations generated through the phonated breathing pattern in LZJ were used in neurorehabilitation (Feng et al., 2020, Murillo et al., 2014)



Aims & Objectives

Aim: to utilize the possible effects of LiuZiJue (LZJ) exercise, a low-risk and convenient Chinese exercise combining breathing and mindfulness, to improve prefrontal oxygenation (PO), which hopefully improve cognitive functions.

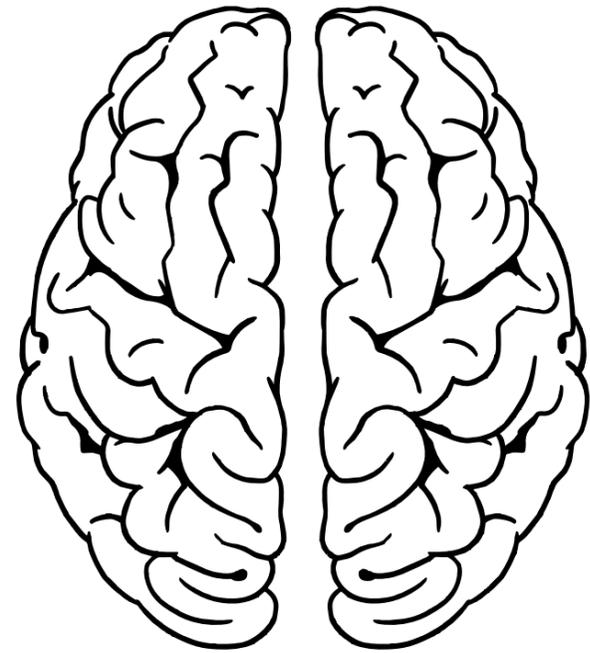
Objectives:

1. to study the effect of LZJ on prefrontal oxygenation by employing fNIRS in Adults with Long COVID-19 syndrome and healthy adults
2. to examine the effect of LZJ on cognitive functioning in adults with Long COVID-19 syndrome with psychometric assessments



Hypotheses

- **H1:** after LZJ exercise intervention, adults with long COVID-19 syndrome and healthy adults will demonstrate increase in ΔHbO concentration in prefrontal cortex (PFC) in fNIRS assessment.
- **H2:** after LZJ exercise intervention, subjective and objective outcome measures of cognitive problems in adults with long COVID-19 syndrome will be improved.



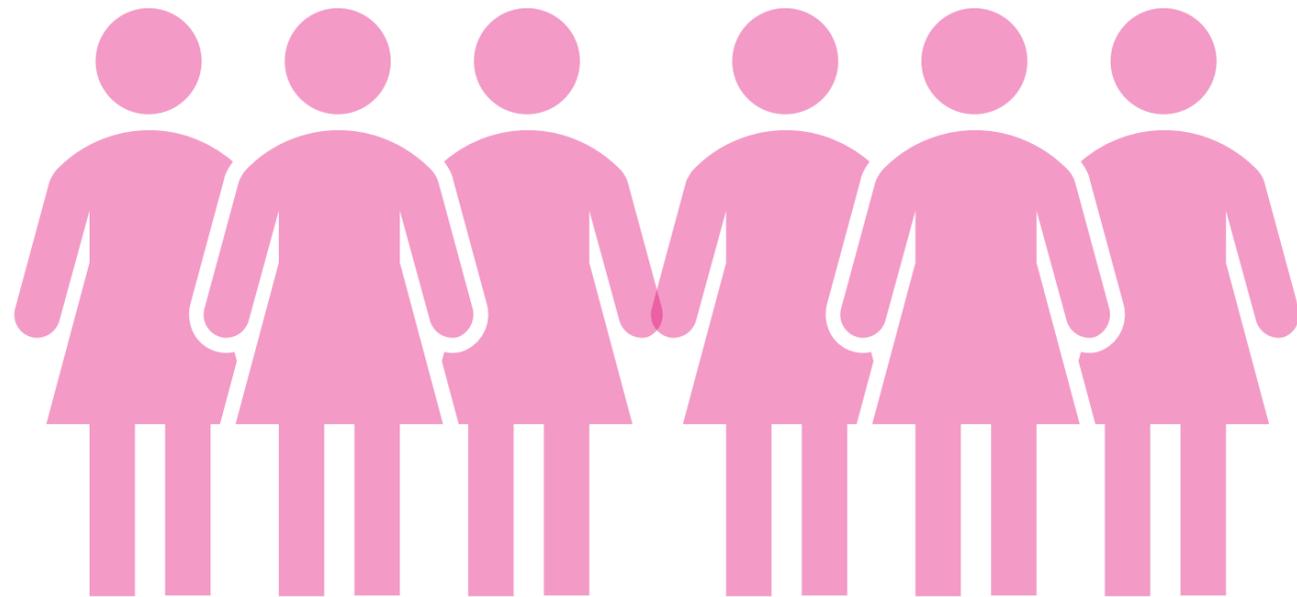
Methodology



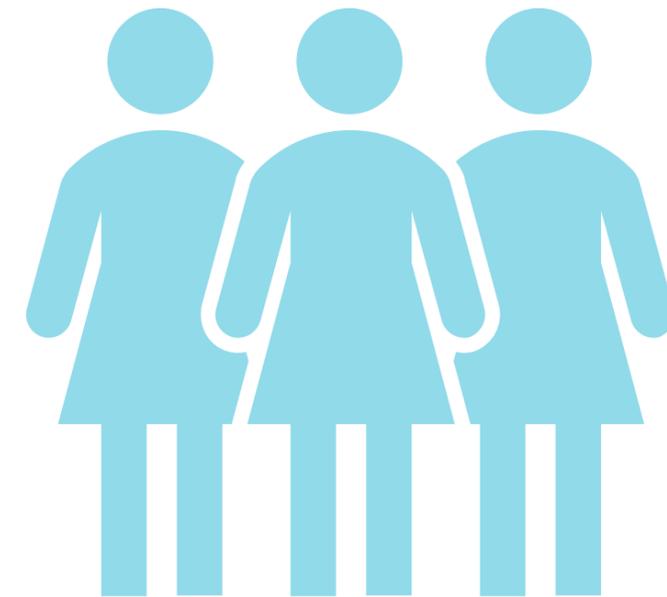


Methodology – Participants

Total: 30 participants



Disease group:
20 participants (mean, SD; 50 ± 18.1 years)

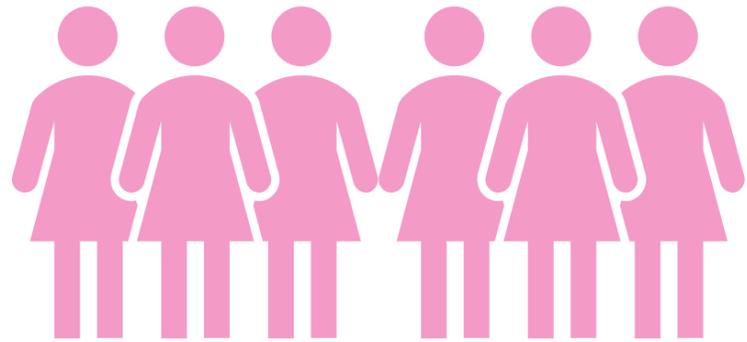


Control group:
10 participants were in (mean, SD; 47.8 ± 18.7 years)



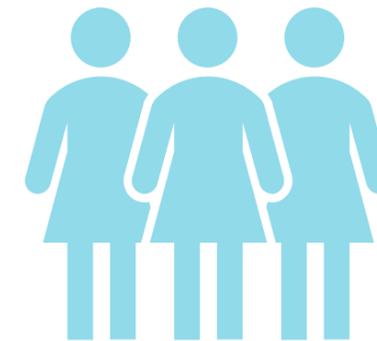
Methodology – Inclusion & Exclusion

Inclusion



Disease Group:

- 1) Adults aged 18 or above;
- 2) Having no experience of LZJ Qigong;
- 3) Voluntarily practice LZJ.
- 4) Confirmed clinical diagnosis of COVID-19 with positive (PCR) / (RAT) and minimum of 4 weeks after diagnosis



Control group:

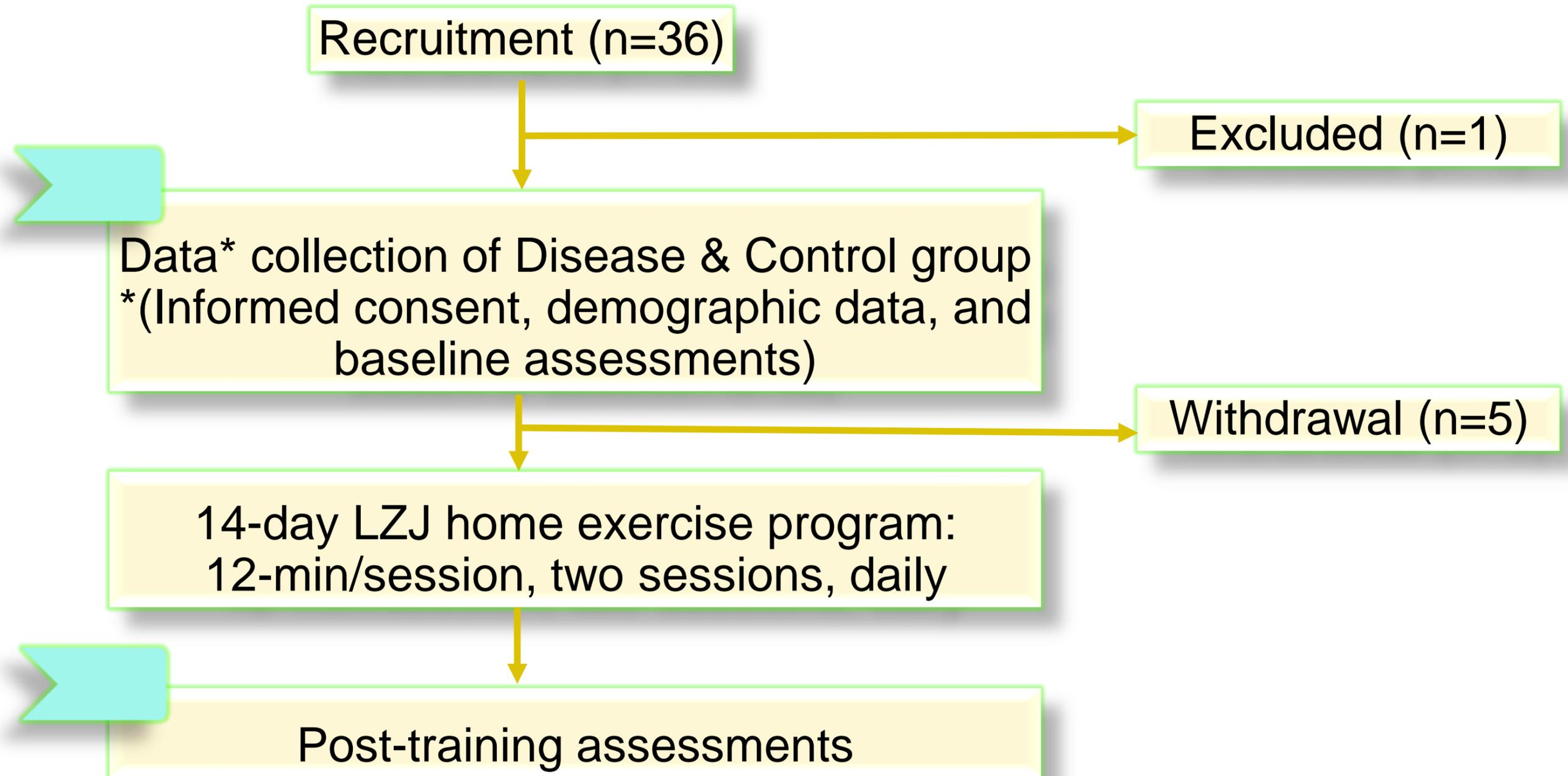
- 1+2+3) of inclusion in D group
- 4) Having no clinical history of COVID-19 infection

Exclusion

- 1) Not compatible with performing intervention safely
- 2) Currently participating in a rehabilitation program
- 3) Involvement in physical training at an athletic level for at least 3 months prior to enrolling in the study.



Methodology - Study design





Methodology – fNIRS assessment procedures

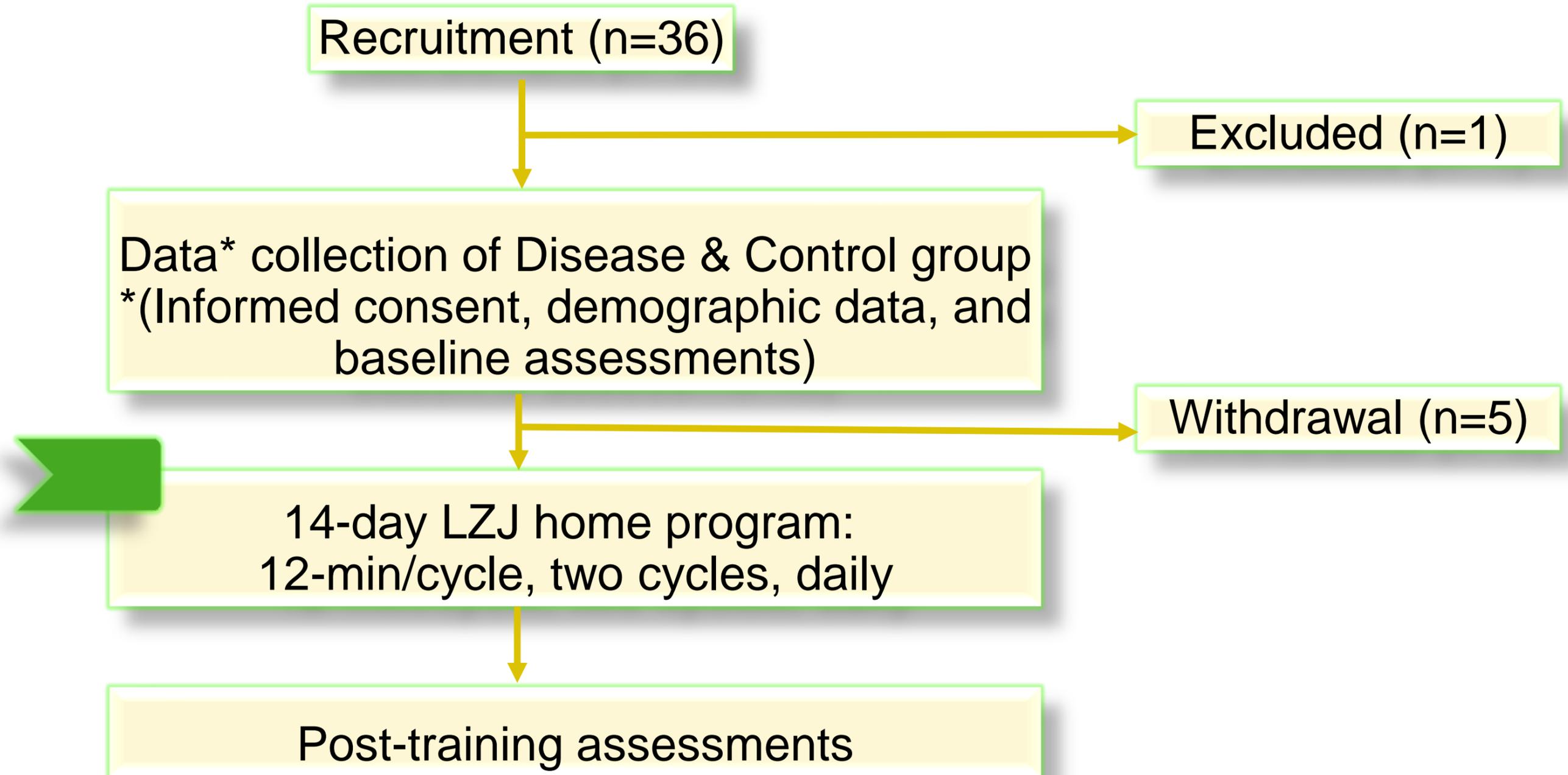
Schematic representation of fNIRS assessment procedure in baseline and post-exercise measures for BOTH groups

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Conditions (R=Rest; L=LZJ) | R1 | L1 | R2 | L2 | R3 | L3 | R4 | L4 | R5 | L5 | R6 | L6 | R7 |
| Duration (min) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |





Methodology - Study design





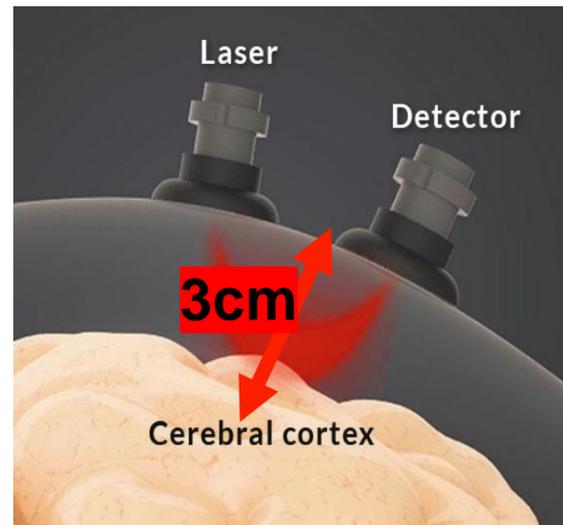
Methodology – 14-day Intervention program

- A pre-recorded soundtrack: 2-min intervals
- Recommendation: be seated comfortably, quiet environment,

| Exercise (L=LZJ) | L1 | L2 | L3 | L4 | L5 | L6 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|--------|------|
| Six sounds | Xu 噓 | He 呵 | Hu 呼 | Si 嘶 | Chui 吹 | Xi 嘻 |
| Duration (min) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Intensity & Frequency | 12-min/cycle, 2 cycles/day, 14 days | | | | | |



Methodology – Outcome indicators



1. Primary Outcome: *Prefrontal oxygenation.*

- NIRSIT-LITE (OBELAB Inc., Seoul, Korea)
- Data were converted to changes of HbO and HbR concentration over bilateral prefrontal cortex by Modified Beer-Lambert law (MBLL)
- Increased ΔHbO and corresponding decreased in ΔHbR can be interpreted as a sign of functional brain activation



Technical Specification

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Penetration Distance | Regular 3 cm |
| Number of channels | 15 channels |
| Optical elements | Source: 5 Detector: 7 |
| Wavelength | 780nm, 850nm |
| Sampling rate | 8.138 Hz |



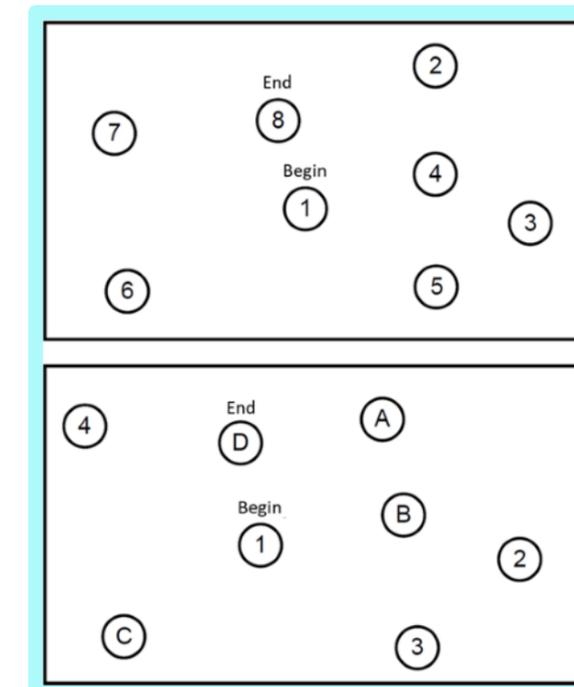
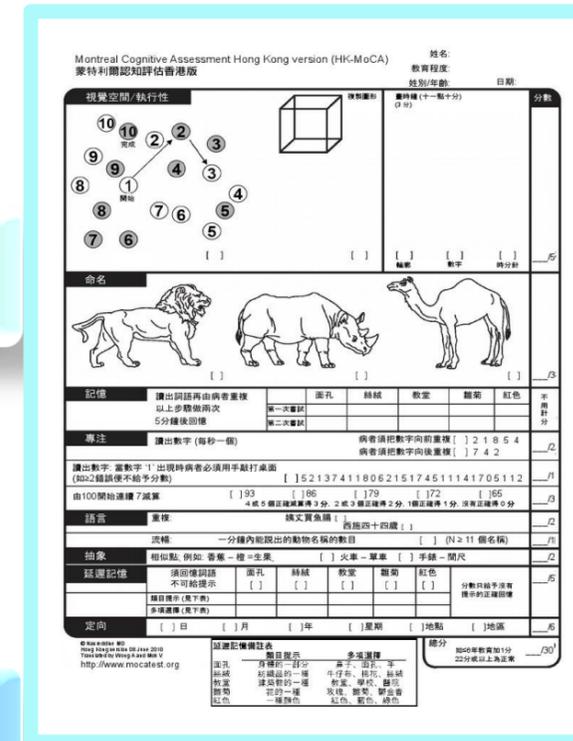
Methodology – Outcome indicators

2. Secondary Outcome: *Cognitive functioning & Long COVID-19 syndrome.*

| Outcome measures | Psychometric assessments |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Global cognitive functioning | HK-MoCA |
| Attention | Trail Making Tests (part A & B) |
| Long COVID-9 Syndrome | C19 YRS |

• Standardized assessments

• Self-rated questionnaire



C19-YRS

COVID-19 Yorkshire Rehabilitation Scale

A digital assessment and monitoring tool to help manage individuals with Long COVID



Results





Results – Baseline Characteristics of participants

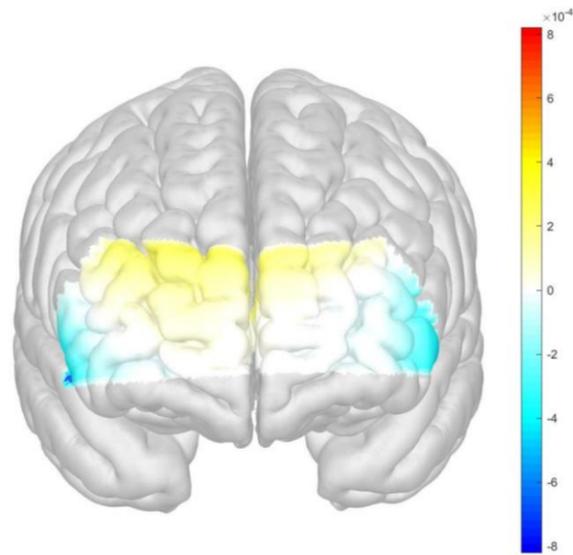
| Characteristic | Disease (n = 20) | Control (n = 10) |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Gender | M: 5 F: 15 | M: 3 F: 7 |
| Age (years) | 51 ± 17.1 | 43.2 ± 18.5 |
| Education (years) | 12.25 ± 4.2 | 14.9 ± 3.2 |

| Groups | Overall | Disease | Control |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Exercise hours in 14-day program | 5.12 ± 2.20 | 4.86 ± 2.42 | 5.67 ± 1.67 |

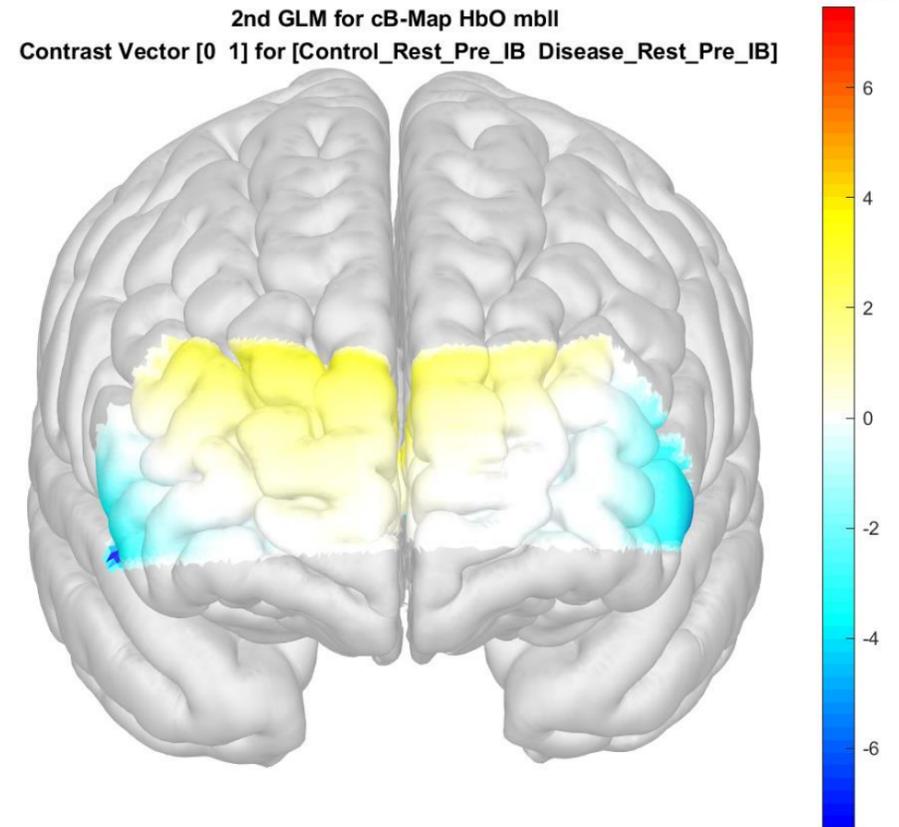
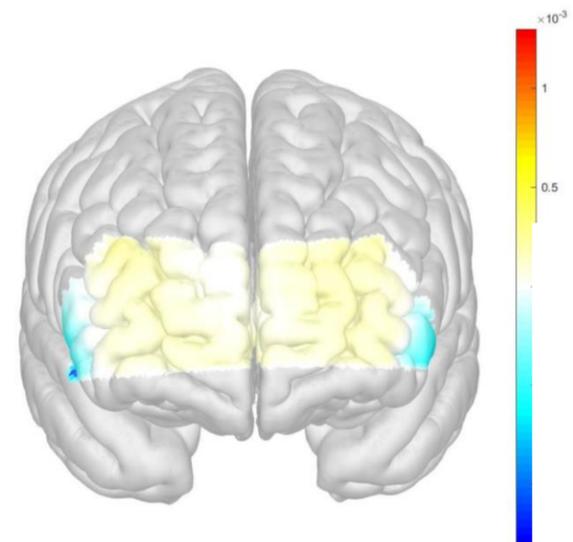


Results – Baseline comparison between groups at Rest

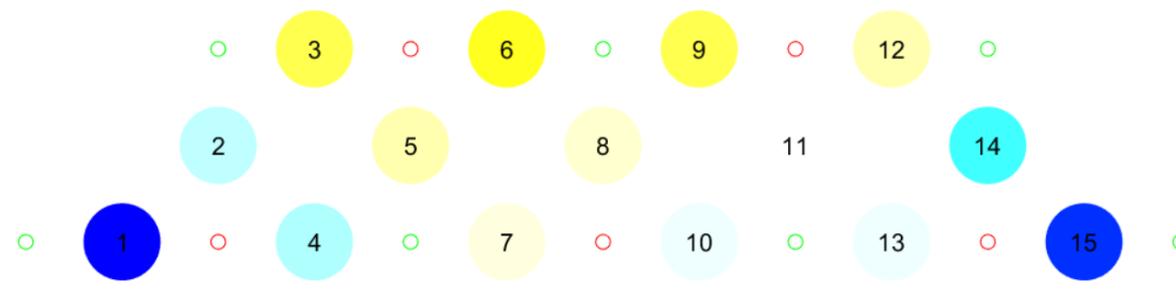
Disease



Control



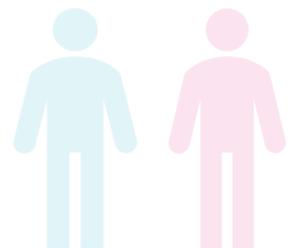
2nd GLM for cB-Map HbO mbll
Contrast Vector [0 1] for [Control_Rest_Pre_IB Disease_Rest_Pre_IB]



Group comparison of mean ΔHbO ($\times 10^{-4}$ mol/L) in 15 channels in baseline at rest

| Channel | Mean. D | Var. D | Mean. C | Var. C | Mean diff. | p Value* |
|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|------------|-----------|
| ch1 | 1.4 | 0.06 | 10.0 | 0.08 | -8.6 | p < 0.001 |
| ch2 | -1.8 | 0.16 | -5.6 | 0.05 | 3.7 | p < 0.001 |
| ch3 | -0.7 | 0.06 | 1.3 | 0.02 | -2.0 | p < 0.001 |
| ch4 | -1.5 | 0.02 | -2.7 | 0.01 | 1.2 | p < 0.001 |
| ch5 | -0.1 | 0.01 | -3.5 | 0.02 | 3.4 | p < 0.001 |
| ch6 | -1.2 | 0.01 | -2.3 | 0.02 | 1.1 | p < 0.001 |
| ch7 | -0.2 | 0.02 | -4.4 | 0.02 | 4.1 | p < 0.001 |
| ch8 | -1.2 | 0.01 | -2.6 | 0.02 | 1.4 | p < 0.001 |
| ch9 | -1.7 | 0.01 | -4.3 | 0.01 | 2.6 | p < 0.001 |
| ch10 | -0.5 | 0.03 | -1.6 | 0.02 | 1.1 | p < 0.001 |
| ch11 | -2.7 | 0.01 | -2.5 | 0.01 | -0.2 | p < 0.001 |
| ch12 | -2.9 | 0.02 | -4.8 | 0.01 | 1.9 | p < 0.001 |
| ch13 | 0.0 | 0.02 | -3.4 | 0.02 | 3.4 | p < 0.001 |
| ch14 | -1.4 | 0.01 | -2.4 | 0.02 | 1.0 | p < 0.001 |
| ch15 | -3.2 | 0.06 | 12.6 | 0.09 | -15.8 | p < 0.001 |

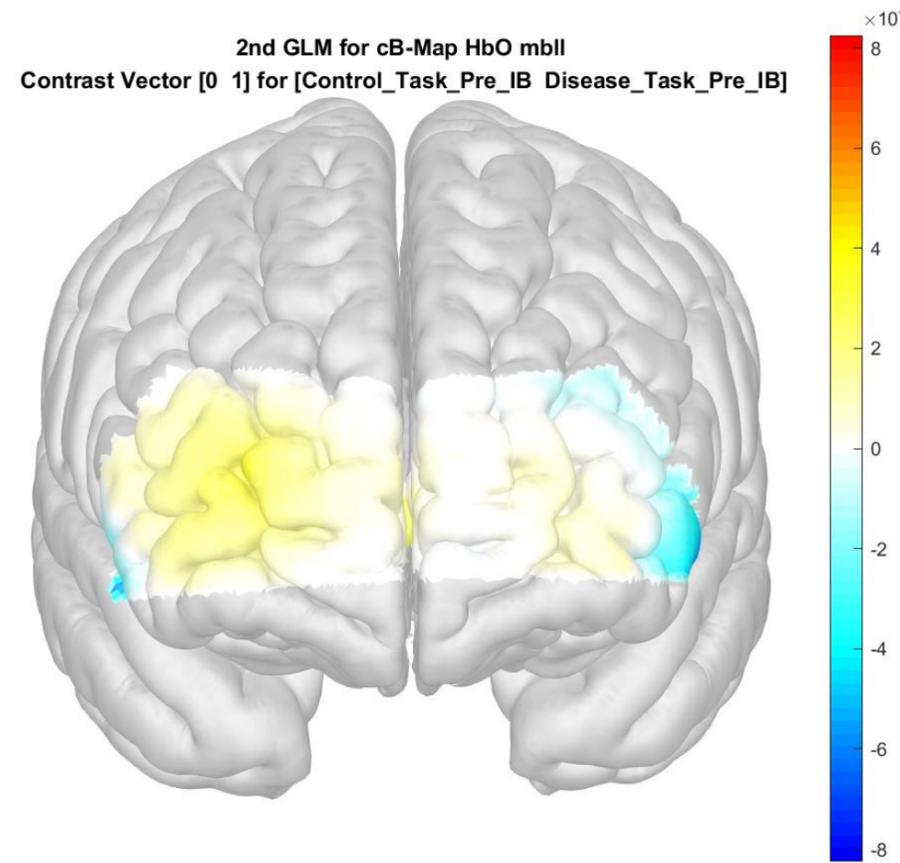
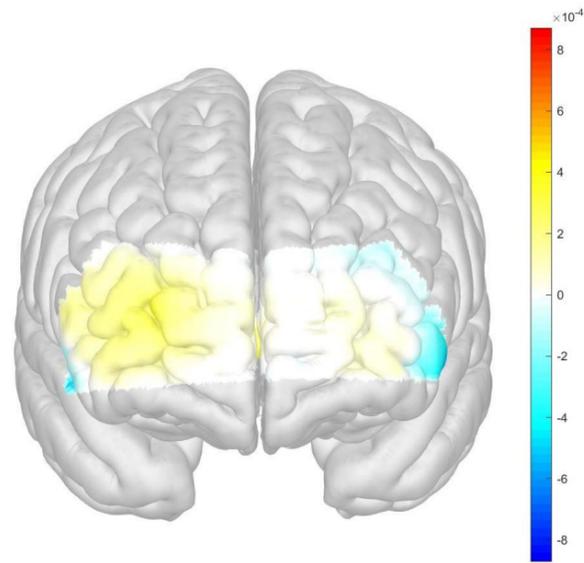
* test by independent t test



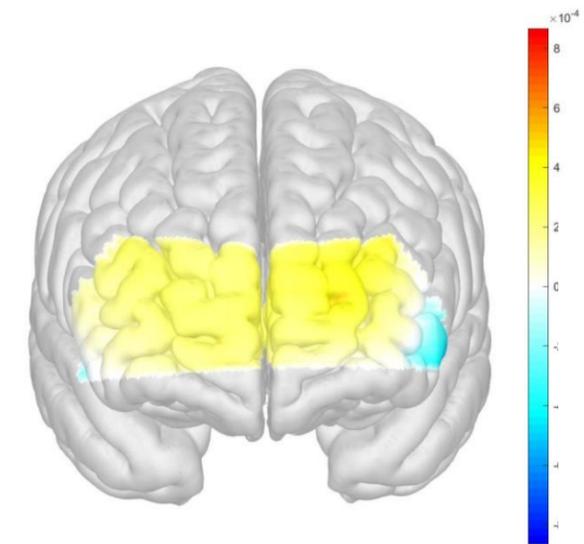


Results – Baseline comparison between groups doing LZJ

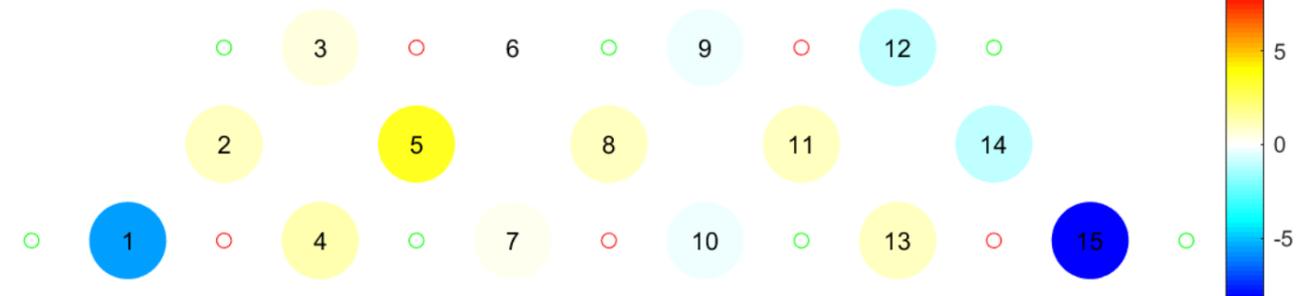
Disease



Control



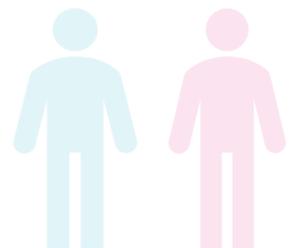
2nd GLM for cB-Map HbO mbll
Contrast Vector [0 1] for [Control_Task_Pre_IB Disease_Task_Pre_IB]



Group comparison of mean ΔHbO ($\times 10^{-4}$ mol/L) in 15 channels in baseline at LZJ

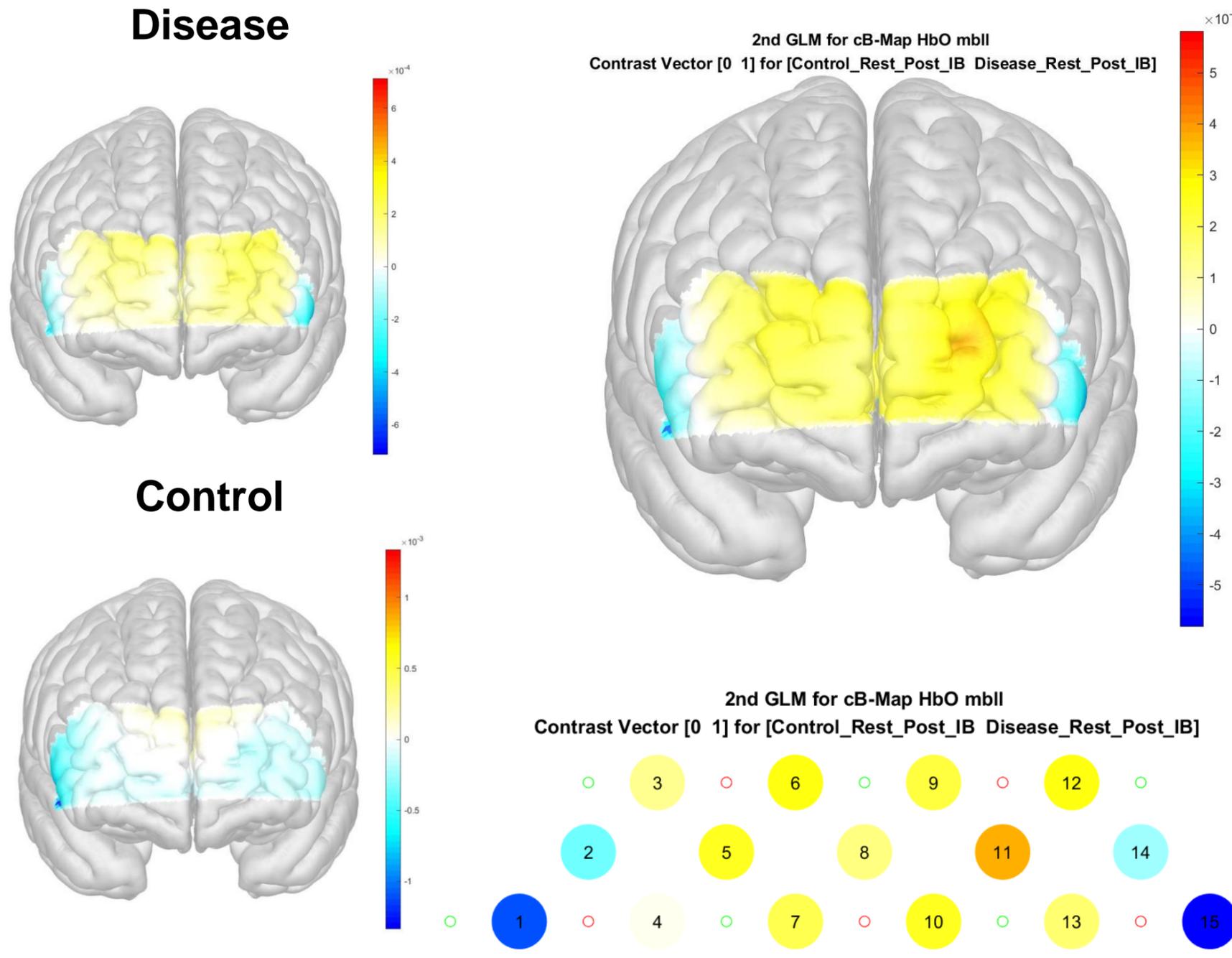
| Channel | Mean. D | Var. D | Mean. C | Var. C | Mean diff. | p Value* |
|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|------------|----------|
| ch1 | 1.0 | 0.06 | 8.2 | 0.04 | -7.2 | p <0.001 |
| ch2 | -2.4 | 0.11 | -6.3 | 0.04 | 3.8 | p <0.001 |
| ch3 | -0.7 | 0.06 | 1.0 | 0.02 | -1.7 | p <0.001 |
| ch4 | -2.0 | 0.03 | -2.9 | 0.01 | 0.9 | p <0.001 |
| ch5 | -0.7 | 0.01 | -4.1 | 0.02 | 3.4 | p <0.001 |
| ch6 | -1.3 | 0.01 | -2.7 | 0.01 | 1.4 | p <0.001 |
| ch7 | -0.5 | 0.02 | -4.5 | 0.02 | 4.1 | p <0.001 |
| ch8 | -1.6 | 0.01 | -3.3 | 0.02 | 1.8 | p <0.001 |
| ch9 | -1.7 | 0.01 | -4.7 | 0.01 | 2.9 | p <0.001 |
| ch10 | -0.6 | 0.02 | -1.6 | 0.02 | 1.1 | p <0.001 |
| ch11 | -3.1 | 0.01 | -2.9 | 0.01 | -0.1 | p <0.05 |
| ch12 | -3.0 | 0.01 | -5.0 | 0.01 | 2.0 | p <0.001 |
| ch13 | -0.3 | 0.02 | -3.5 | 0.02 | 3.2 | p <0.001 |
| ch14 | -1.1 | 0.01 | -2.6 | 0.01 | 1.5 | p <0.001 |
| ch15 | -3.2 | 0.06 | 11.7 | 0.06 | -14.9 | p <0.001 |

* test by independent t test





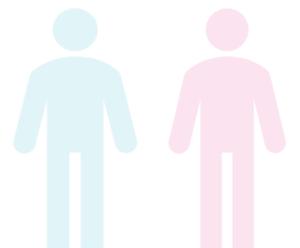
Results – Post-training comparison between groups at Rest



Group comparison of mean ΔHbO ($\times 10^{-4}$ mol/L) in 15 channels in post-training at Rest

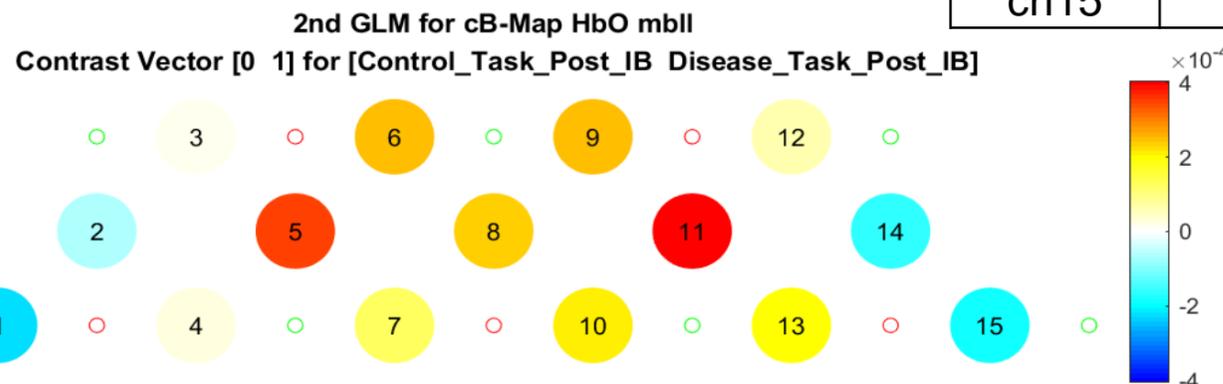
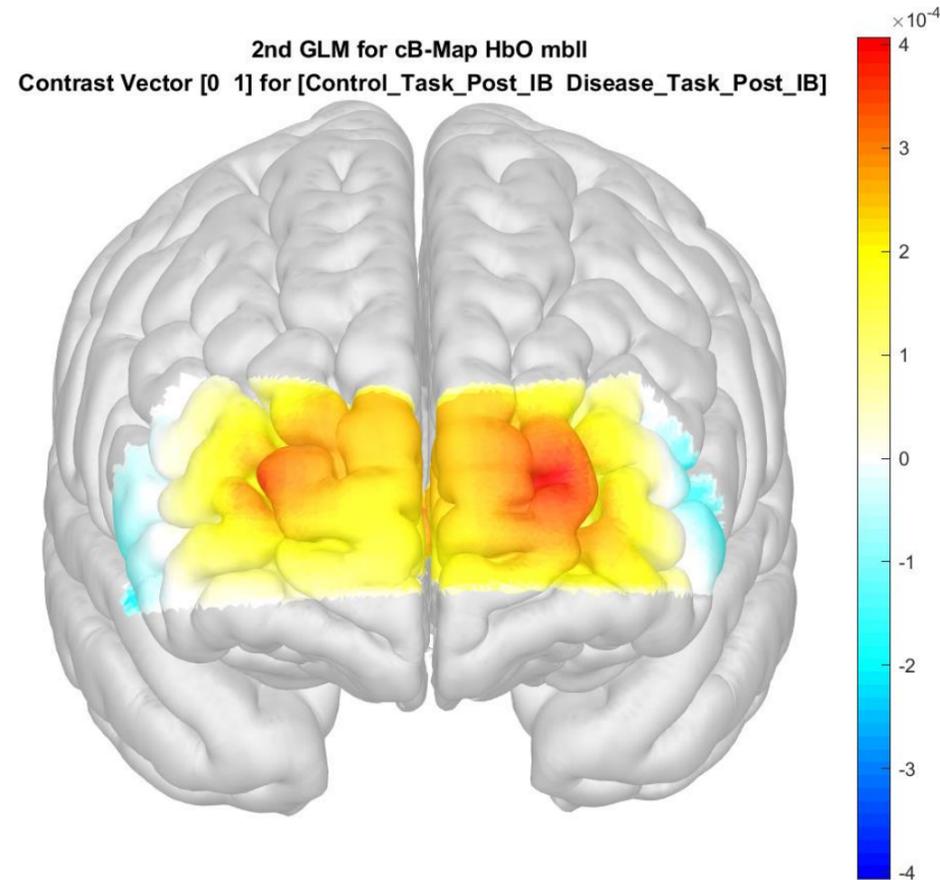
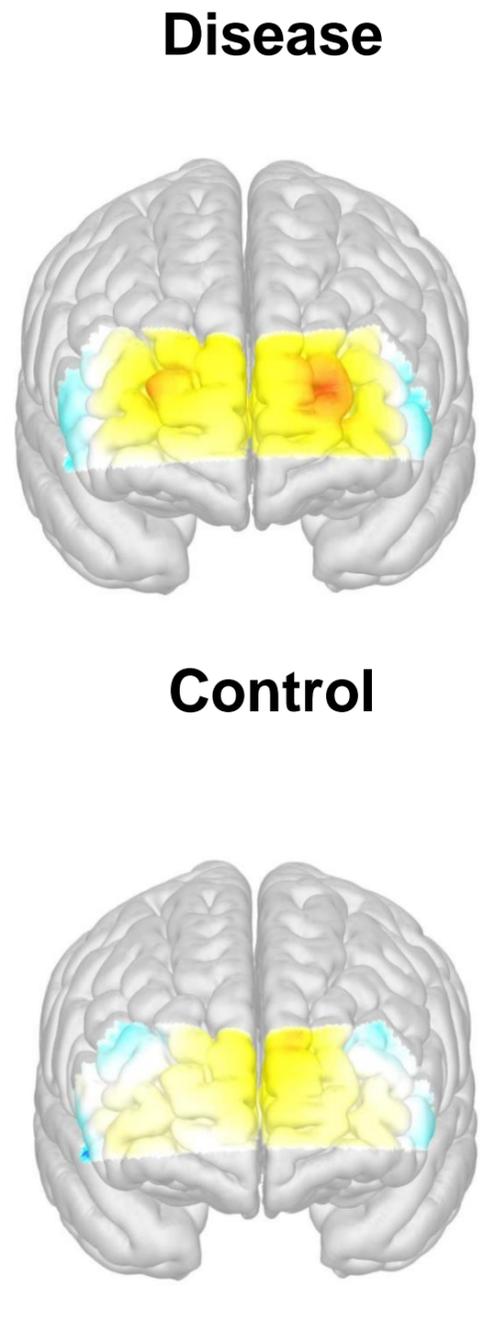
| Channel | Mean. D | Var.D | Mean. C | Var.C | Mean diff. | p Value* |
|---------|---------|-------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|
| ch1 | -3.1 | 0.11 | 0.0 | 0.12 | -3.1 | p < 0.001 |
| ch2 | 0.9 | 0.12 | -3.5 | 0.04 | 4.5 | p < 0.001 |
| ch3 | -8.0 | 0.05 | -1.1 | 0.03 | -6.8 | p < 0.001 |
| ch4 | -3.2 | 0.02 | 3.2 | 0.02 | -6.4 | p < 0.001 |
| ch5 | -0.6 | 0.02 | 2.3 | 0.01 | -2.9 | p < 0.001 |
| ch6 | -6.3 | 0.04 | -0.3 | 0.01 | -5.9 | p < 0.001 |
| ch7 | -4.4 | 0.02 | -1.1 | 0.01 | -3.3 | p < 0.001 |
| ch8 | -5.0 | 0.03 | 0.7 | 0.01 | -5.7 | p < 0.001 |
| ch9 | -4.3 | 0.03 | 1.6 | 0.01 | -5.9 | p < 0.001 |
| ch10 | -7.2 | 0.03 | -0.6 | 0.01 | -6.6 | p < 0.001 |
| ch11 | -3.0 | 0.04 | 0.7 | 0.01 | -3.7 | p < 0.001 |
| ch12 | -2.9 | 0.10 | -1.1 | 0.02 | -1.7 | p < 0.001 |
| ch13 | -2.3 | 0.03 | 2.3 | 0.02 | -4.5 | p < 0.001 |
| ch14 | -7.2 | 0.08 | -0.6 | 0.02 | -6.7 | p < 0.001 |
| ch15 | -0.4 | 0.14 | -4.0 | 0.06 | 3.7 | p < 0.001 |

* test by independent t test





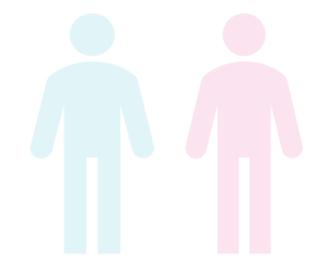
Results – Post-training comparison between groups doing LZJ



Group comparison of mean ΔHbO ($\times 10^{-4}$ mol/L) in 15 channels in post-training at LZJ

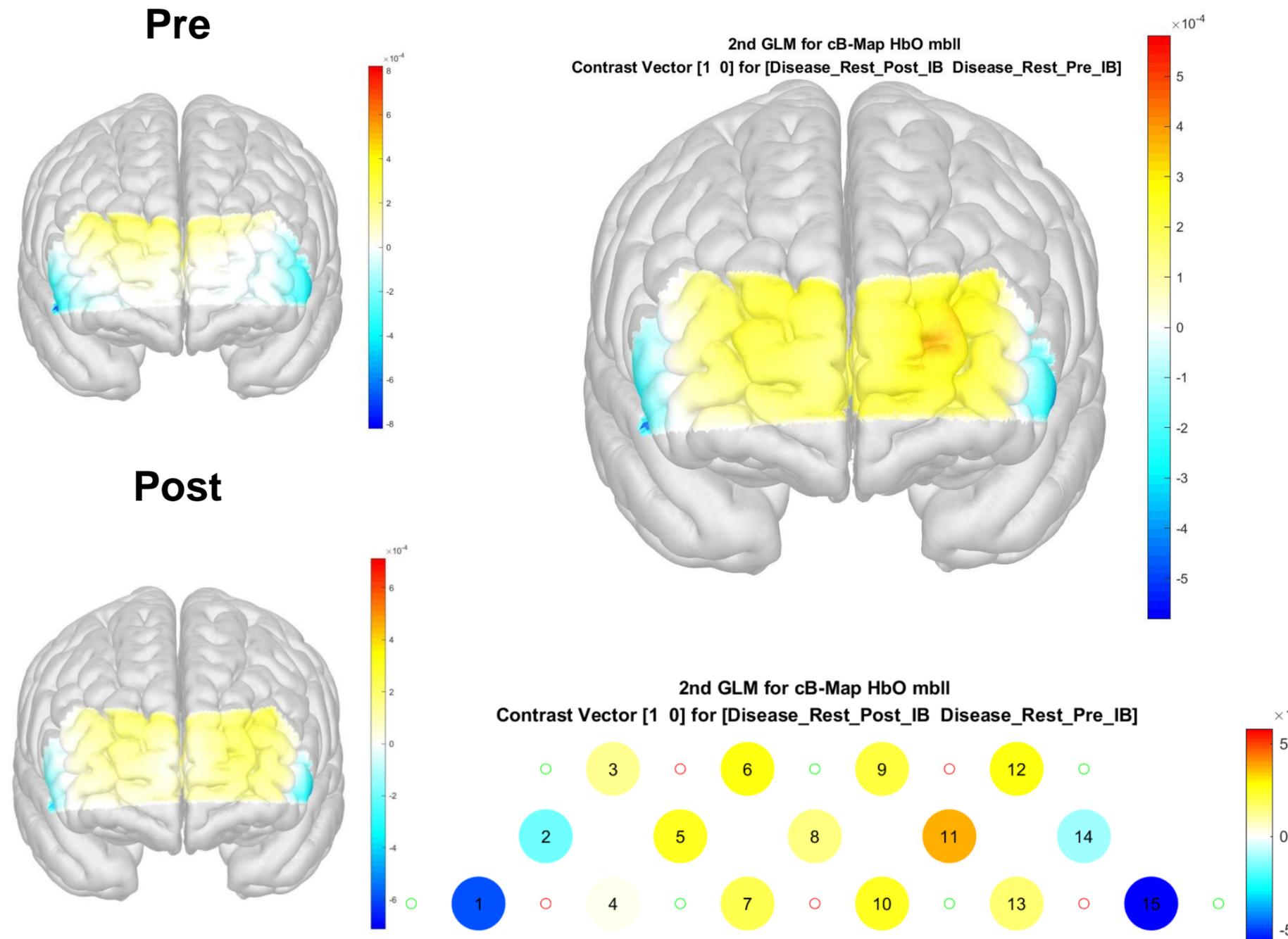
| Channel | Mean. D | Var. D | Mean. C | Var. C | Mean diff. | p Value* |
|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|------------|-----------|
| ch1 | -3.0 | 0.08 | -2.0 | 0.10 | -1.0 | p < 0.001 |
| ch2 | 0.2 | 0.11 | -4.1 | 0.04 | 4.3 | p < 0.001 |
| ch3 | -7.9 | 0.05 | -2.3 | 0.02 | -5.6 | p < 0.001 |
| ch4 | -3.4 | 0.02 | 3.0 | 0.03 | -6.5 | p < 0.001 |
| ch5 | -1.0 | 0.02 | 2.2 | 0.01 | -3.2 | p < 0.001 |
| ch6 | -6.6 | 0.04 | -0.4 | 0.02 | -6.2 | p < 0.001 |
| ch7 | -4.5 | 0.02 | -1.1 | 0.02 | -3.3 | p < 0.001 |
| ch8 | -5.3 | 0.02 | 0.5 | 0.01 | -5.7 | p < 0.001 |
| ch9 | -4.6 | 0.03 | 1.8 | 0.02 | -6.4 | p < 0.001 |
| ch10 | -7.2 | 0.03 | -0.6 | 0.01 | -6.5 | p < 0.001 |
| ch11 | -3.4 | 0.03 | 0.1 | 0.01 | -3.5 | p < 0.001 |
| ch12 | -3.3 | 0.04 | -2.0 | 0.01 | -1.4 | p < 0.001 |
| ch13 | -2.8 | 0.03 | 2.1 | 0.02 | -4.9 | p < 0.001 |
| ch14 | -7.4 | 0.07 | -0.4 | 0.02 | -7.0 | p < 0.001 |
| ch15 | -1.3 | 0.12 | -4.1 | 0.08 | 2.8 | p < 0.001 |

* test by independent t test





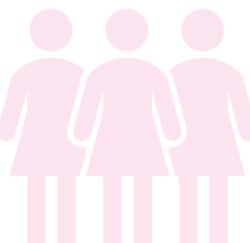
Results – Training effect in Disease group at Rest



Pre and post training comparison of mean ΔHbO ($\times 10^{-4}$ mol/L) in 15 channels in disease group at rest

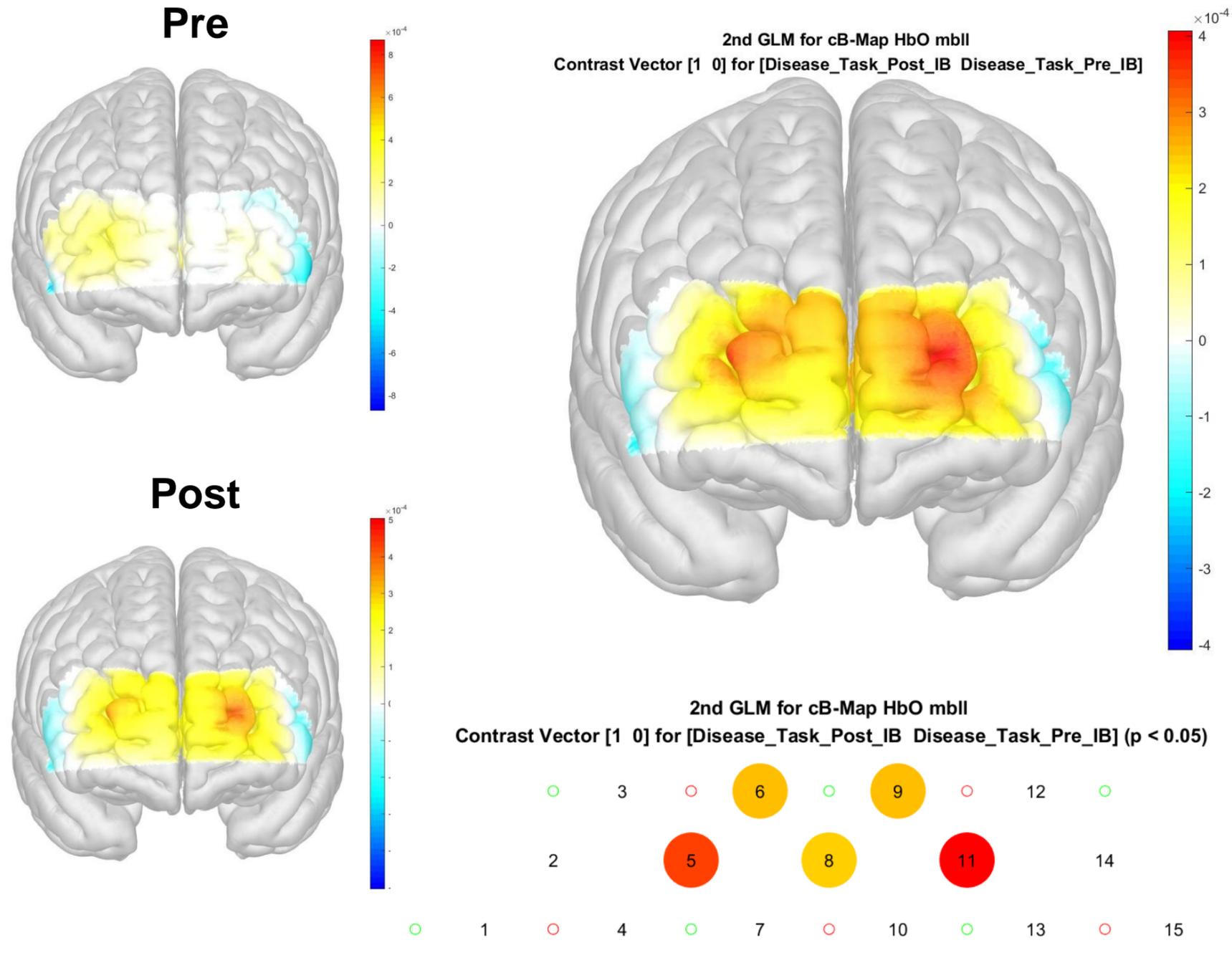
| Channel | Mean. Pre | Var. Pre | Mean. Post | Var. Post | Mean diff. | p Value* |
|---------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| ch1 | 1.4 | 0.06 | -3.1 | 0.11 | 4.5 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch2 | -1.8 | 0.16 | 0.9 | 0.12 | -2.8 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch3 | -0.7 | 0.06 | -8.0 | 0.05 | 7.3 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch4 | -1.5 | 0.02 | -3.2 | 0.02 | 1.7 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch5 | -0.1 | 0.01 | -0.6 | 0.02 | 0.5 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch6 | -1.2 | 0.01 | -6.3 | 0.04 | 5.0 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch7 | -0.2 | 0.02 | -4.4 | 0.02 | 4.2 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch8 | -1.2 | 0.01 | -5.0 | 0.03 | 3.8 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch9 | -1.7 | 0.01 | -4.3 | 0.03 | 2.6 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch10 | -0.5 | 0.03 | -7.2 | 0.03 | 6.7 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch11 | -2.7 | 0.01 | -3.0 | 0.04 | 0.3 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch12 | -2.9 | 0.02 | -2.9 | 0.10 | 0.0 | $p = 0.8$ |
| ch13 | 0.0 | 0.02 | -2.3 | 0.03 | 2.2 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch14 | -1.4 | 0.01 | -7.2 | 0.08 | 5.9 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch15 | -3.2 | 0.06 | -0.4 | 0.14 | -2.8 | $p < 0.001$ |

* test by paired t test





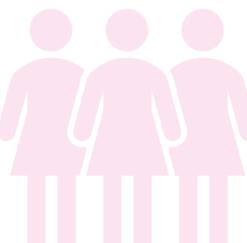
Results – Training effect in Disease group doing LZJ



Pre and post training comparison of mean ΔHbO ($\times 10^{-4}$ mol/L) in 15 channels in disease group at LZJ

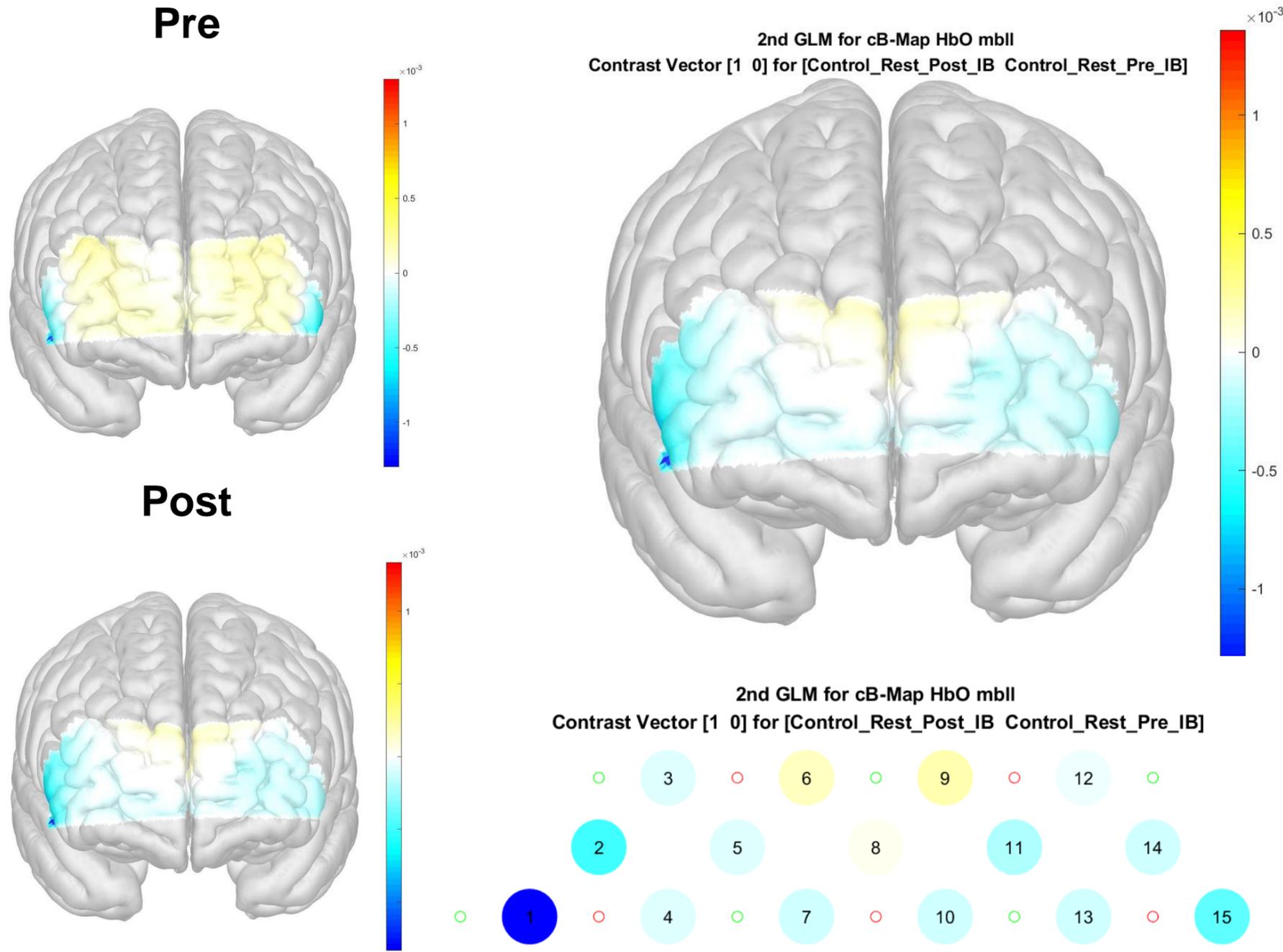
| Channel | Mean. Pre | Var.Pre | Mean. Post | Var.Post | Mean diff. | p Value* |
|---------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| ch1 | 1.0 | 0.06 | -3.0 | 0.08 | 4.01 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch2 | -2.4 | 0.11 | 0.2 | 0.11 | -2.69 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch3 | -0.7 | 0.06 | -7.9 | 0.05 | 7.24 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch4 | -2.0 | 0.03 | -3.4 | 0.02 | 1.43 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch5 | -0.7 | 0.01 | -1.0 | 0.02 | 0.29 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch6 | -1.3 | 0.01 | -6.6 | 0.04 | 5.36 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch7 | -0.5 | 0.02 | -4.5 | 0.02 | 4.01 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch8 | -1.6 | 0.01 | -5.3 | 0.02 | 3.67 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch9 | -1.7 | 0.01 | -4.6 | 0.03 | 2.88 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch10 | -0.6 | 0.02 | -7.2 | 0.03 | 6.62 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch11 | -3.1 | 0.01 | -3.4 | 0.03 | 0.33 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch12 | -3.0 | 0.01 | -3.3 | 0.04 | 0.34 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch13 | -0.3 | 0.02 | -2.8 | 0.03 | 2.50 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch14 | -1.1 | 0.01 | -7.4 | 0.07 | 6.24 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch15 | -3.2 | 0.06 | -1.3 | 0.12 | -1.87 | $p < 0.001$ |

* test by paired t test





Results – Training effect in Control group at Rest



Pre and post training comparison of mean ΔHbO ($\times 10^{-4}$ mol/L) in 15 channels in control group at rest

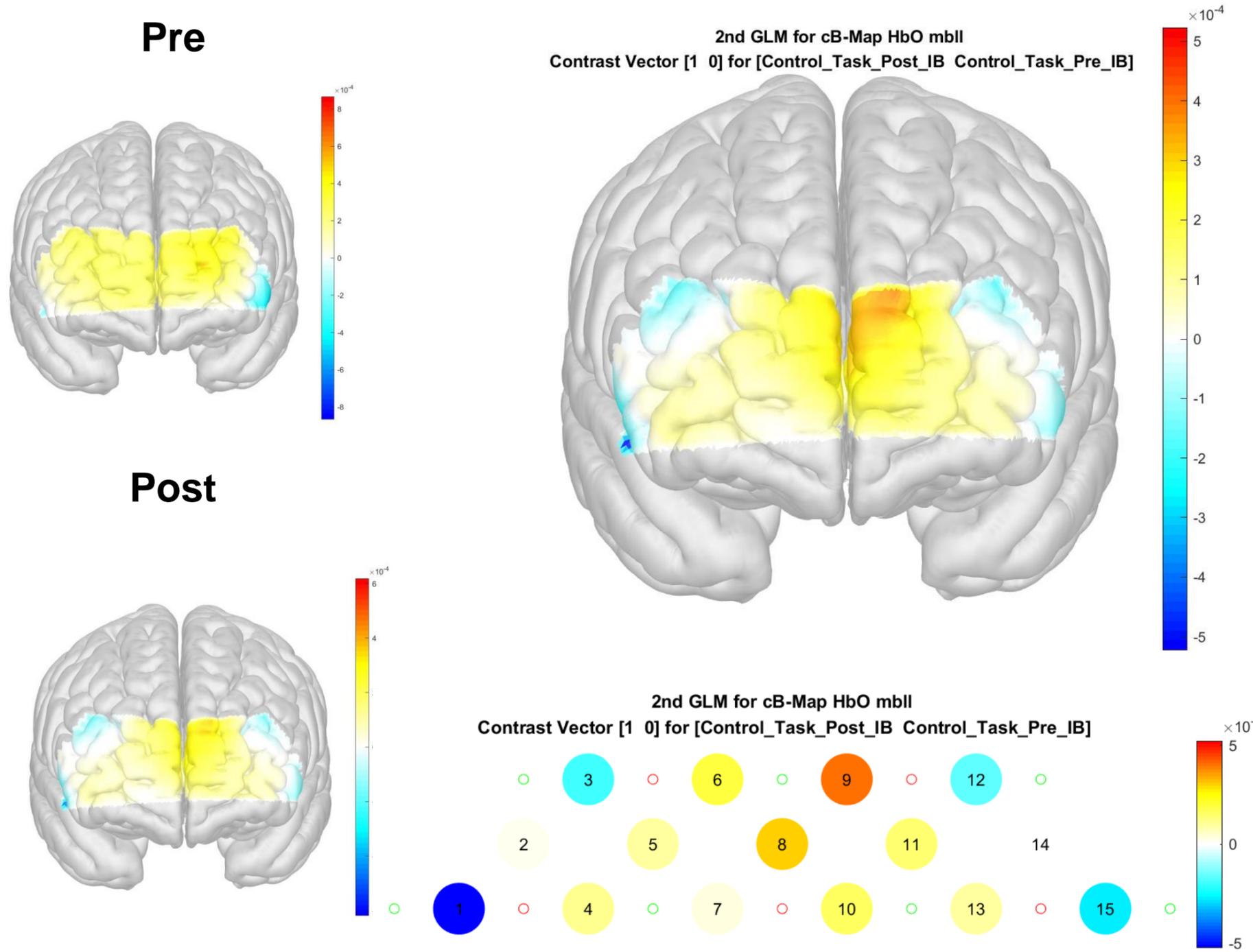
| Channel | Mean. Pre | Var.Pre | Mean. Post | Var.Post | Mean diff. | p Value* |
|---------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|------------|----------|
| ch1 | 10.0 | 0.08 | 0.0 | 0.12 | 10.0 | p <0.001 |
| ch2 | -5.6 | 0.05 | -3.5 | 0.04 | -2.0 | p <0.001 |
| ch3 | 1.3 | 0.02 | -1.1 | 0.03 | 2.5 | p <0.001 |
| ch4 | -2.7 | 0.01 | 3.2 | 0.02 | -5.9 | p <0.001 |
| ch5 | -3.5 | 0.02 | 2.3 | 0.01 | -5.8 | p <0.001 |
| ch6 | -2.3 | 0.02 | -0.3 | 0.01 | -2.0 | p <0.001 |
| ch7 | -4.4 | 0.02 | -1.1 | 0.01 | -3.3 | p <0.001 |
| ch8 | -2.6 | 0.02 | 0.7 | 0.01 | -3.3 | p <0.001 |
| ch9 | -4.3 | 0.01 | 1.6 | 0.01 | -5.9 | p <0.001 |
| ch10 | -1.6 | 0.02 | -0.6 | 0.01 | -1.0 | p <0.001 |
| ch11 | -2.5 | 0.01 | 0.7 | 0.01 | -3.2 | p <0.001 |
| ch12 | -4.8 | 0.01 | -1.1 | 0.02 | -3.7 | p <0.001 |
| ch13 | -3.4 | 0.02 | 2.3 | 0.02 | -5.7 | p <0.001 |
| ch14 | -2.4 | 0.02 | -0.6 | 0.02 | -1.8 | p <0.001 |
| ch15 | 12.6 | 0.09 | -4.0 | 0.06 | 16.6 | p <0.001 |

* test by paired t test





Results – Training effect in Control group doing LZJ

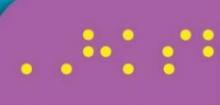


Pre and post training comparison of mean ΔHbO ($\times 10^{-4}$ mol/L) in 15 channels in control group at LZJ

| Channel | Mean. Pre | Var.Pre | Mean. Post | Var.Post | Mean diff. | p Value* |
|---------|-----------|---------|------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| ch1 | 8.2 | 0.04 | -2.0 | 0.10 | 10.2 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch2 | -6.3 | 0.04 | -4.1 | 0.04 | -2.2 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch3 | 1.0 | 0.02 | -2.3 | 0.02 | 3.3 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch4 | -2.9 | 0.01 | 3.0 | 0.03 | -6.0 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch5 | -4.1 | 0.02 | 2.2 | 0.01 | -6.3 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch6 | -2.7 | 0.01 | -0.4 | 0.02 | -2.3 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch7 | -4.5 | 0.02 | -1.1 | 0.02 | -3.4 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch8 | -3.3 | 0.02 | 0.5 | 0.01 | -3.8 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch9 | -4.7 | 0.01 | 1.8 | 0.02 | -6.4 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch10 | -1.6 | 0.02 | -0.6 | 0.01 | -1.0 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch11 | -2.9 | 0.01 | 0.1 | 0.01 | -3.0 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch12 | -5.0 | 0.01 | -2.0 | 0.01 | -3.0 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch13 | -3.5 | 0.02 | 2.1 | 0.02 | -5.6 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch14 | -2.6 | 0.01 | -0.4 | 0.02 | -2.3 | $p < 0.001$ |
| ch15 | 11.7 | 0.06 | -4.1 | 0.08 | 15.8 | $p < 0.001$ |

* test by paired t test





Results – Psychometric assessments

Between Groups comparison

| | <i>Session</i> | <i>Disease</i> | <i>Control</i> | <i>Mean difference</i> | <i>Statistical value (t-test)</i> | <i>P value (2-tailed)</i> |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>MOCA (marks)</i> | <i>Pre</i> | 26.1±3.076 | 28.2±1.874 | 2.1 | -2.313 | 0.029** |
| | <i>Post</i> | 27±2.828 | 28.9±1.287 | 1.9 | -2.526 | 0.017** |
| <i>TMT-A (s)</i> | <i>Pre</i> | 34.403±12.817 | 35.91±5.077 | 1.507 | -0.459 | 0.650 |
| | <i>Post</i> | 28.868±9.788 | 27.712±6.112 | -1.156 | 0.396 | 0.695 |
| <i>TMT-B (s)</i> | <i>Pre</i> | 74.278±37.244 | 64.22±16.289 | -10.058 | 1.027 | 0.313 |
| | <i>Post</i> | 64.447±29.553 | 56.224±15.844 | -8.223 | 0.992 | 0.330 |

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$; **** $p < 0.001$

Objective Measures of Cognitive Functioning



Results – Psychometric assessments

Disease group: Training effect

| | <i>Pre</i> | <i>Post</i> | <i>Mean difference</i> | <i>Statistical value (t-test)</i> | <i>P value (2-tailed)</i> |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>MOCA (marks)</i> | 26.1±3.076 | 27±2.828 | 0.9 | -1.872 | 0.077* |
| <i>TMT-A (s)</i> | 34.403±12.81 | 28.868±9.788 | -5.535 | 2.943 | 0.008*** |
| <i>TMT-B (s)</i> | 74.278±37.24 | 64.447±29.553 | -9.831 | 1.507 | 0.148 |

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$; **** $p < 0.001$

Objective Measures of Cognitive Functioning



Results – Psychometric assessments

Disease group: Training effect

| | <i>Pre session (marks)</i> | <i>Post session (marks)</i> | <i>Mean difference (marks)</i> | <i>Statistical value (t-test)</i> | <i>P value (2-tailed)</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Overall health</i> | 7.2±1.795 | 7.35±2.231 | 0.15 | -0.256 | 0.801 |
| <i>Breathless</i> | 0.8±0.789 | 0.35±0.368 | -0.45 | 2.015 | 0.058* |
| <i>Cough</i> | 0.7±0.632 | 0.2±0.211 | -0.5 | 2.032 | 0.056* |
| <i>Fatigue</i> | 0.8±0.789 | 0.45±0.474 | -0.35 | 1.277 | 0.217 |
| <i>Pain/Discomfort</i> | 0.85±0.842 | 0.95±1 | 0.1 | -0.317 | 0.755 |
| <i>Cognition</i> | 1.1±1.053 | 1.1±1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$; **** $p < 0.001$

Subjective Complaint of long COVID-19 Symptoms



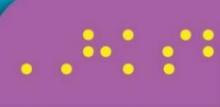
Results – Psychometric assessments

Control group: Training effect

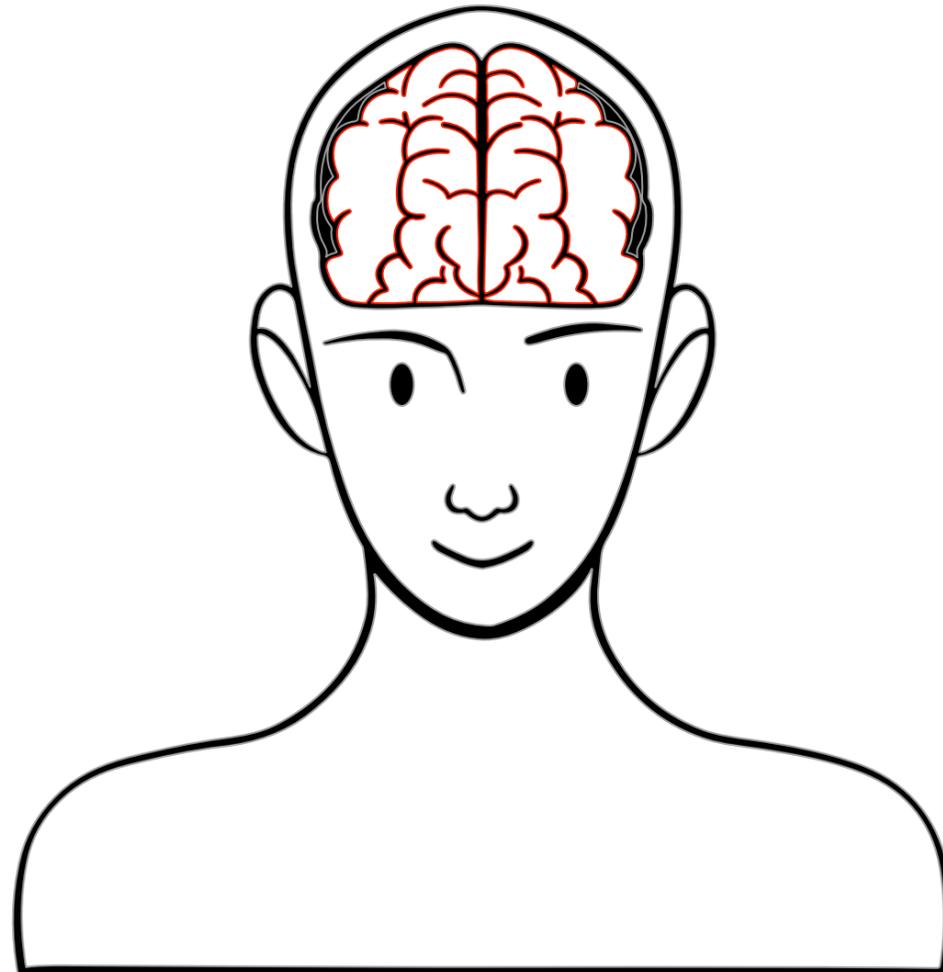
| | <i>Pre</i> | <i>Post</i> | <i>Mean difference</i> | <i>Statistical value (t-test)</i> | <i>P value (2-tailed)</i> |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>MOCA (marks)</i> | 28.2±1.874 | 28.9±1.287 | 0.7 | -0.978 | 0.354 |
| <i>TMT-A(s)</i> | 35.91±5.077 | 27.712±6.112 | -8.198 | 4.402 | 0.002*** |
| <i>TMT-B(s)</i> | 64.22±16.28 | 56.224±15.844 | -7.996 | 1.505 | 0.167 |

* $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$; **** $p < 0.001$

Objective Measures of Cognitive Functioning



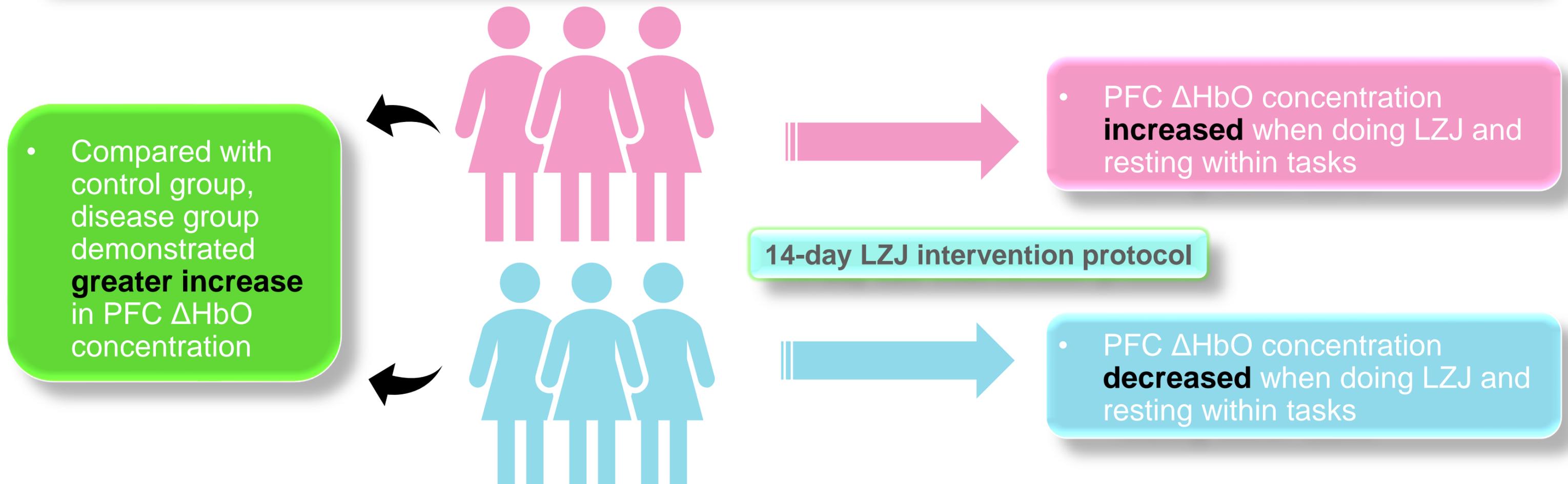
Key Findings





Key Findings

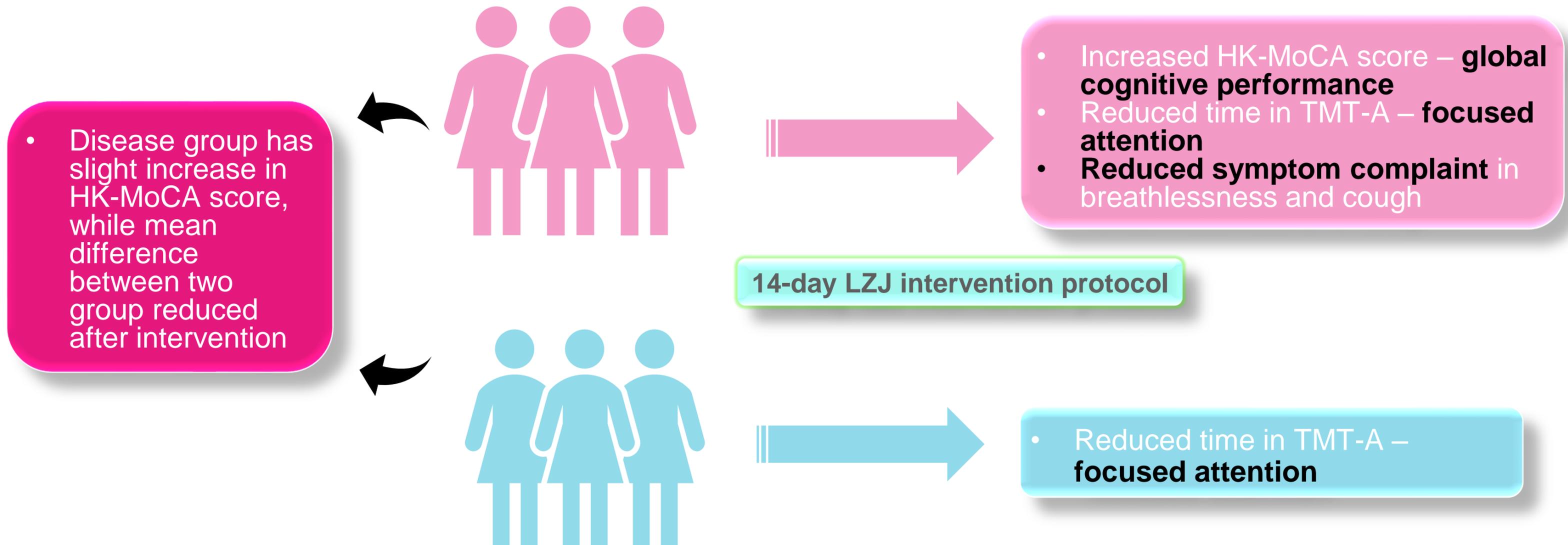
- **H1:** after LZJ exercise intervention, adults with long COVID-19 syndrome and healthy adults will demonstrate increase in ΔHbO concentration in prefrontal cortex (PFC) in fNIRS assessment.





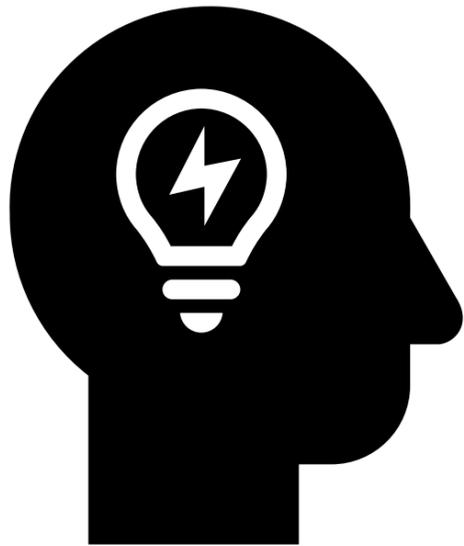
Key Findings

- **H2:** after LZJ exercise intervention, subjective and objective outcome measures of cognitive problems in adults with long COVID-19 syndrome will be improved.





Discussion



Increase in ΔHbO showed **Better brain activities**
(Liang, et al, 2021; Bak, Shin & Jeong, 2022)



Discussion

Altered brain activity & blood flow pattern:

- Altered functional connectivity in the prefrontal cortex(Liu et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2022)
- Increased blood flow in PFC

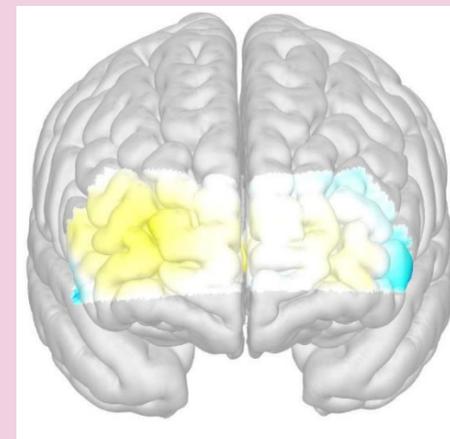
Lower baseline

- more responsive to intervention

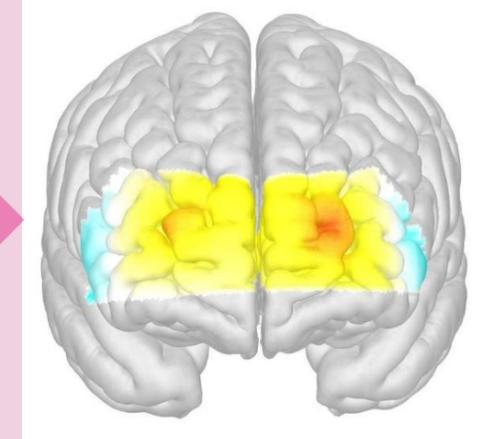
14-day LZJ intervention protocol

Disease group doing LZJ

Pre



Post



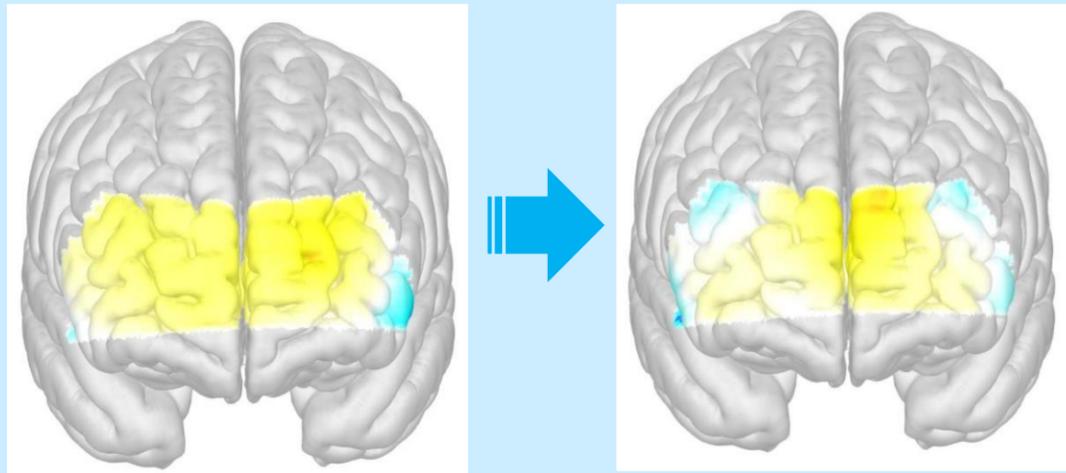
Increase Δ HbO concentration in PFC



Discussion

14-day LZJ intervention protocol

Healthy group doing LZJ and rest
Pre Post



Decreased ΔHbO concentration in PFC

Improvement in cognitive assessment

- TMT-A: improved focused attention

Increased prefrontal efficiency:

- Regular practice allow effective function with less oxygenated blood flow

Enhanced autonomic regulation:

- Increased vagal regulation → increased parasympathetic activity → reduced oxygen consumption (Wei et al., 2015)

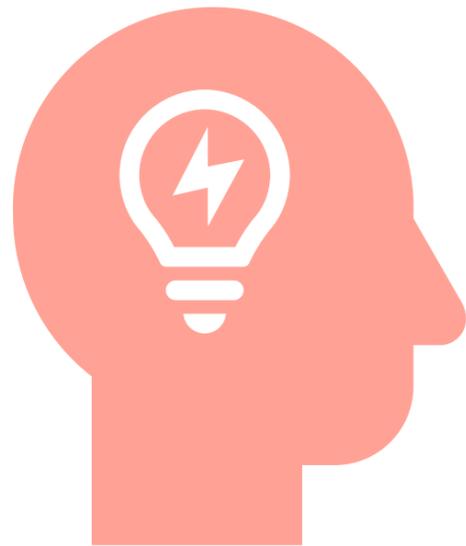


Discussion

Disease group: increase brain activity to achieve cognitive efficiency

Healthy group: decrease brain activity to maintain the same cognitive efficiency

Bi-directional adjustment of the Qigong, to make the body to achieve equilibrium.



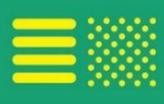


Limitation

- No known the effect of live as usual and control for LZJ.
- A pilot study, need more large-scale study



The End
~Thank you~



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