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Improved H mode with flat central q profile on $EAST^1$ HAIQING LIU, YAO YANG, XIANG GAO, LONG ZENG, JINPING QIAN, XIANZU GONG, BAONIAN WAN, Institute of Plasma Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, WEIX-ING DING, DAVID LYN BROWER, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Los Angeles, EAST TEAM — High betaN ($^{-1.8}$) plasma with good confinement (H98y2 $^{-1.1}$) on EAST tokamak has been reported recently. These ELMy H-mode plasmas with $B_t = 1.6T$, $I_p = 400$ kA and $q_{95} \approx 4.5$ were heated by lower hybrid wave and neutral beam injection. The internal transport barrier (ITB) and edge transport barrier (ETB) are both observed with m/n=1/1 fishbone, which were identified to clamp central q at values close to unity. Implying an improved Hmode with flat central q profile and absence of sawteeth, like other devices. Accurate q profile, key profile for developing scenarios aim at high performance H mode, were derived by Polarimeter-interferometer (POINT) measurement as constraint. Base on the optimized current profile, better confinement ($H98y2^{-1.4}$) with an electron ITB was obtained also with flat central q profile and absence of sawteeth at high betaP (~2) regime with $B_t = 2.5T$, $I_p = 400$ kA. Both high betaN regime and high betaP regime H mode, are characterized by a stationary flat central q profile $q0 \ge 1$, but typically close to 1, absence of sawteeth, H98(y,2) > 1 and simultaneously, with ITB.

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