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Lateral Masking Effects on Contrast Sensitivity in Rats

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Highlights

- Visual contrast sensitivity in rats is reduced by adjacent, non-overlapping masks
- Lateral mask effects were unaffected by relative orientation or separation of masks
- Results are consistent with non-systematic orientation topography in rodent cortex

Abstract

Changes in target visibility may be produced by additional stimulus elements at adjacent locations. Such contextual effects may reflect lateral interactions of stimulus representations in early cortical areas. It has been reported that the organization of orientation preference found in primates and cats visual cortex differs from that found in rodents, suggesting functional distinctions across species. In order to examine effects of

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