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Orienting of Visual Attention in Aging

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Highlights

- Orienting attention in space enables effective perception and action
- Orienting of attention is sometimes reported to be affected by healthy aging
- Aging effects on orienting are specific to certain task, cue, and timing conditions
- Aging effects on orienting may be a function of ancillary cognitive factors
- Multiple brain substrates of orienting may explain the diversity of aging effects

Abstract

Changes in attention are among the most important cognitive shifts associated with aging, with implications for maintenance of vocational competencies, participation in social interactions, and successful execution of activities of daily living. An important facet of attention is orienting, the ability to selectively attend a location or modality and thereby engender perceptual augmentation. Orienting also involves shifting of the focus of attention in response to unanticipated salient events. Aging may impact

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