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Neural Mechanisms and Control of Visual Attention

Neurophysiological studies have identified correlates of selective attention within visual cortex of both human and nonhuman primates. However, the causal mechanisms of these effects remain poorly understood. Indirect evidence suggests that the modulation of visual signals reflects, at least in part, the preparation of appropriate movements, particularly eye movements, in response to visual stimuli. I will describe recent neurophysiological experiments that directly address the relationship of oculomotor mechanisms to visual spatial attention, as well as the relationship of both to spatial working memory.