Auditory Processing in Fluency Disorders

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Is stuttering related to defective feedback in hearing your own voice?

**Masking Level Difference**

The Masking Level Difference (MLD) is a binaural phenomenon that is considered necessary for auditory processing. The MLD is not a test of hearing threshold. It relates to our ability to separate signals from background noise. It has been shown to have origins neuro-physiologically in the brainstem.

Adapted from Olsen and Noffsinger, 1976

**Backward Masking**

Backward Masking (BM) is a monaural phenomenon that is considered necessary for auditory processing. BM disorders have been associated with aging and lead-based perceptual problems in animal models and children. BM has its origins neuro-physiologically in the midbrain.