

Abstract

The Mismatch Negativity (MMN) is a component of event related potentials, elicited by a physically deviated auditory stimulus (deviant) that is presented in a sequence of identical stimuli (standard). Traditionally, the MMN is considered as an automatic brain response that generated at the sensory level. However, from several recent findings, I suspect that perception of the deviants may be needed for MMN generation. The present study investigates whether perception of the deviants is necessary or not for generating the MMN. It was found that no MMN was generated if the deviants were not perceived, and perception of the deviants is the consequence of MMN generation. Thus the deviant must be processed beyond the sensory level, and probably reach to the perceptual level, in order to generate the MMN.