Improving binaural hearing with bilateral cochlear implants
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Despite the success of cochlear implants (CIs) in restoring functional hearing in individuals with severe to profound hearing loss, the majority of recipients experience difficulties understanding speech in background noise. To overcome this problem, an increasing number of CI-candidates receive two implants. However, small mismatches between the inputs from both ears may exist, and these have been shown to reduce the binaural benefits that might accrue from bilateral implantation. Hence, there is considerable interest in enhancing binaural benefit from bilateral CI by matching the input from the two ears. To do so, both psychoacoustic and objective measures have been proposed. In this talk, I will discuss these techniques, taking into account the clinical utility of these tests.