Improved word perception in tinnitus patients following electrical stimulation of the ear: a preliminary report.

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The present study showed that there were close relationships between tinnitus relief and improved word perception by means of a grammatically correct but non-sense Japanese word perception test. Fourteen out of 20 patients reported tinnitus relief and improvement in hearing. Nine out of the 14 patients were thought to be significantly improved in word perception. Improved word perception was observed in 7 out of 10 patients whose ears tested were opposite to ears treated while in 2 out of 10 patients whose ears tested were the same as ears treated. Improved word perception was observed in 5 patients at one segment, 2 patients at two segments and 2 patients at three segments. Improved word perception was observed in one patient at the first segment, 5 patients at the second segment, 5 patients at the third segment and 5 patients at the fourth segment. There were no significant differences in hearing level nor age in patients with and without relief of tinnitus.