

ABOUT HEARING LOSS



Outer ear

Middle ear

Inner ear

Department of Prevention of Communication Disorders (POCD)



ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING

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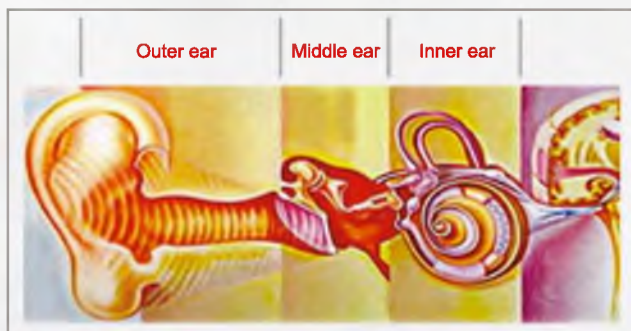
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WHAT IS HEARING LOSS ?

- Hearing loss is the reduction in hearing capacity in one or both the ears
- Age of onset: Any time from birth to old age.
- Types of Hearing loss: outer middle ear (conductive hearing loss), inner ear (sensorineural hearing loss), middle and inner ear (mixed hearing loss), beyond outer, middle and inner ear (Auditory Processing disorders)



- Degree of Hearing loss: This depends on the threshold measured in decibels (dB) as follows:
 - 10 to 15 dB: Normal hearing sensitivity
 - 16 to 25 dB: Minimal hearing loss
 - 26 to 40 dB: Mild hearing loss
 - 41 to 55 dB: Moderate hearing loss
 - 56 to 70 dB: Moderately severe hearing loss
 - 71 to 90 dB: Severe hearing loss
 - >90 dB: Profound hearing loss

Causes

- Ear and other infections
- Aging
- Family history
- Exposure to loud sounds



- Infections before, during and after delivery
- Injury or physical blow causing trauma to the ears.
- Inserting hair pins, pencil tip, stones, matchsticks etc into the ears.



- Use of certain medicines which are harmful to the ears (ototoxic)



- Hearing loss due to long term exposure to noise (ex. Industries, rock concerts, iPods, music systems etc.)

Symptoms

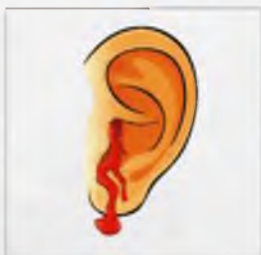
- Difficulty in hearing



- Asking for repetition and difficulty understanding conversation/difficulty understanding speech in the presence of noise (traffic noise, multiple speakers, classroom etc.)



- Ear pain or ear discharge



- ➔ Ringing or buzzing sounds in the ear
- ➔ Perception that people around are not speaking clearly
- ➔ Difficulty identifying the direction of sound
- ➔ Blocking sensation and itching sensation in the ears
- ➔ Giddiness and balance problems

Do's and Don'ts

- ➔ Take your child for regular vaccination.
- ➔ Use ear protective devices when working in noise



- ➔ Seek immediate treatment for nose, throat and ear infections.
- ➔ Make sure that water does not enter the ears (while swimming and bathing)
- ➔ Do not use any sharp objects like hairpin or matchstick for cleaning ears
- ➔ Avoid pouring oil in ears

Management

- ➔ Medical and surgical treatment/consultation from an ENT doctor
- ➔ Audiologist's consultation
- ➔ Rehabilitation- Listening training & Speech-Language therapy when required



[FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND INFORMATION](#)

CONTACT

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