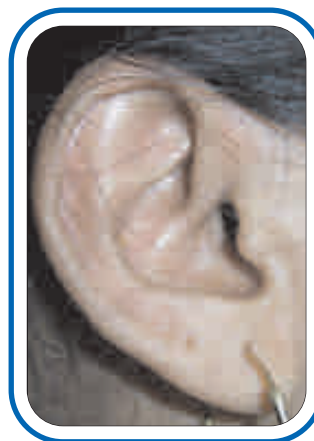


**12. How is hearing loss detected by a doctor?**

A. The doctor will examine the ear with a tuning fork and confirm whether you have conductive or nerve hearing loss. The doctor can also use an Otoscope (a special instrument with a light and a tip to look into the ear canal) to see clearly inside your ear. Hearing loss in adults & in older children can be confirmed by doing a 'PURE TONE AUDIOMETRY'. More special tests are required for younger children.

**13. What are the treatment options for hearing loss?**

A. Treatment options depend upon the cause of hearing loss. Medical treatment may involve giving antibiotics or other drugs orally or as ear drops. Surgery may be indicated in some cases. Hearing aids are effective and well tolerated for people with certain type of hearing loss. Those who are profoundly hearing impaired may benefit from a cochlear implant.



**HEARING  
LOSS?  
PLEASE DO NOT  
IGNORE**

**HEARING LOSS**

*Frequently Asked Questions*



**Hearing test  
is easy  
GO FOR IT!**



**Society for Sound Hearing**

[www.soundhearing2030.org](http://www.soundhearing2030.org)

## FAQS ABOUT HEARING LOSS

### 1. How do we hear?

A. Our ears are in charge of collecting sounds, processing them, and sending sound signals to our brain. The ear is made up of three different sections: outer, middle and inner. These parts have different functions and all work together so we can hear.

### 2. What is hearing loss?

A. Hearing loss is a reduced ability to hear sounds in comparison to normal hearing in one or both ears. It ranges from slight to profound.

### 3. What are the causes of hearing loss?

A. Hearing loss can be caused by aging, illness or disease, by excessive exposure to high noise levels and by trauma.

### 4. What are the different types of hearing loss?

A. There are two types of hearing loss. Conductive hearing loss is caused by interference with sound or transmission through the outer and/or middle ear. Sensorineural hearing loss or nerve loss is caused by disorders of the inner ear or auditory nerve itself. One can also suffer from mixed hearing loss which involves both conductive and sensorineural hearing loss.

### 5. How can we quantify the hearing loss?

A. The severity of hearing loss is ranked according to the additional intensity above a nominal threshold that a sound must be before being detected by an individual.

#### Hearing loss can be:

- Mild (a loss up to 40 dB) - with trouble in hearing ordinary conversation.
- Moderate (40-60 dB) - where voices must be raised to be heard.
- Severe (over 60 dB loss) - where people must shout to be heard.



### 6. Can hearing loss occur at any age?

A. Yes, hearing loss can occur at any stage of our life. Any amount of loss of hearing at any age should not be ignored.

### 7. Does every one suffer from hearing loss with increasing age?

A. Most people's hearing deteriorates as they get older. Normally, aging does not cause impaired hearing before the age of 60. However, people who are exposed to loud noise and do not protect their hearing could begin to lose their hearing at an early age. Also, some conditions, like diabetes mellitus, hypertension etc. are found to be associated with early onset hearing loss.

### 8. Can a new born suffer from hearing loss?

A. Yes, even a newborn can suffer from hearing loss. It happens because of

- Heredity (in case of family history of deafness).
- Rubella or other infections in the pregnant mother.
- Intake of some medications that may harm the hearing apparatus of the fetus.
- Low birth weight of the baby.
- Lack of oxygen at the time of birth.
- Severe Jaundice following birth.
- Other illnesses such as meningitis.

- MMR vaccine helps in the prevention of rubella.
- It is given at the age of 15 months.
- Contact the nearest health facility for more information.

### 9. What are the medicines which are harmful for ear?

A. Certain drugs like gentamicin, streptomycin, erythromycin, minocycline, furosemide, ibuprofen and anti cancer drugs can affect hearing by damaging the nerves involved in hearing. Hence, no drugs should be taken without doctor's advice.

### 10. What are the diseases or conditions that can lead to hearing loss?

A. Wax, blood or any foreign body in the ear canal; perforated ear drum, ear discharge; trauma to the ear; infection in the ear; prolonged exposure to loud noise; head injury; certain medications; tumour of the auditory nerves and some infections like mumps, measles, influenza, meningitis etc. can cause hearing loss.

### 11. When to seek medical care in suspected hearing loss?

A. You should immediately visit to the nearest doctor if you suspect hearing loss. Other symptoms that require a doctor's consultation are:

- Ear discharge.
- Ringing in the ears or vertigo.
- Pain in the ear.
- Foreign body in the ear.
- Heaviness in the ear.
- Fluid or blood coming from the ear.
- Trauma to the head or over the ear.