



PATIENTS WHO MAY NEED TO SEE A HEARING HEALTHCARE SPECIALIST

- Difficulty picking out words in the presence of background noise
- Speaks loudly and has trouble understanding or responding
- Have history of falls; or have problems with balance or dizziness
- Depression, worry or anxiety, related to the inability to hear
- Complaints of Tinnitus - buzzing or ringing sounds in one or both ears
- Patients exposed to high noise levels on their jobs above 85 decibels
- Everybody mumbles - difficulty hearing women and children's voices

RISK FACTORS AND SYMPTOMS FOR HEARING LOSS

- Age (45-65 years old~ 20%) or anyone 65 or older (29%)
- Age above 50 years
- Age above 18 years when a high-risk co-morbidity is present – eg. diabetes
- Cardiovascular Disease, Hypertension – 3x greater incidence
- Diabetes – 2x greater incidence
- Obesity – 2x greater incidence
- Smoker, past smoker or exposed to second hand smoke - 2x greater incidence
- Dizziness – lightheadedness, imbalance/ or vertigo
- Balance issues may co-exist with hearing loss
- Irritability or socially withdrawn, symptoms of depression
- Usage of ototoxic medications – Salicylates (aspirin and NSAIDS), Aminoglycosides (Antibiotics), Loop Diuretics, and Antineoplastic Agents (Anti-Cancer Drugs)