

CENTRAL OHIO EAR, NOSE AND THROAT, INC.

41 COMMERCE PARK DR.
WESTERVILLE, OH 43082

6860 PERIMETER DR. SUITE A
DUBLIN, OH 43016

HEARING LOSS – GENERAL INFORMATION

Causes of Hearing Loss:

Hearing loss can develop at any time in an individual's life. It can occur suddenly or simply happen gradually over time. Unfortunately many people do not realize that they have a hearing loss until it is negatively impacting their communication. Hearing loss can manifest itself in different ways for different people. Some people will experience difficulty communication with others especially in background noise and others may not hear certain sounds such as the turn signal on their car. Hearing loss not only affects the hearing-impaired individual but it will also affect those individuals around them. Usually a patient's friends and family recognize the symptoms of hearing loss before the patient.

Potential Causes of Hearing Loss:

Noise Exposure
Heredity
Ear Wax
Infections and Illness
Medication Reaction
Aging
Injury

Symptoms of Hearing Loss:

As a hearing loss worsens the ability to effectively communicate with others will decline. Individuals with hearing loss may find themselves avoiding certain social situations, accuse others of mumbling or not articulating when speaking or find it hard to "hear" certain individuals such as women or children. These are all common signs that a hearing loss may exist. Therefore, hearing loss can be frustrating, isolating, and for some an embarrassing situation.

Types of Hearing loss:

- Sensorineural hearing loss occurs when there is damage to the nerves of the inner ear. This is generally permanent and accounts for approximately 95% of all hearing losses. It cannot be cured but can be successfully managed with the use of hearing instruments.
- Conductive hearing loss occurs when sound is not being transmitted properly to the inner ear due to a "mechanical" problem. It is often the result of damage or blockage in the outer or middle ear. In most cases, conductive hearing problems can be corrected medically.
- Mixed hearing loss occurs when there is both a sensorineural loss and conductive component.