

Hearing Health Care Scope of Practice: Otolaryngology

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Outline

- Hearing loss work-up
- Treatment options for hearing loss
- Hearing loss red flag conditions

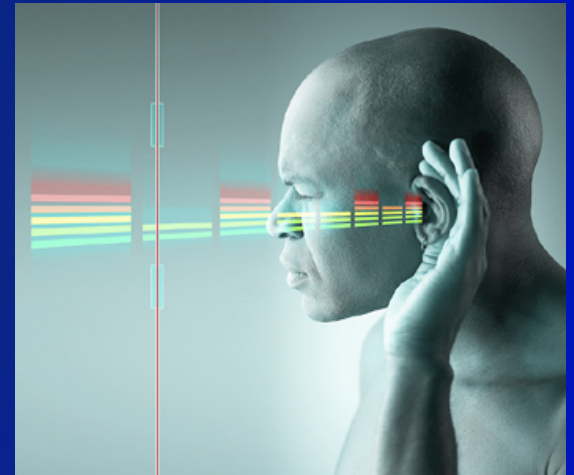
Hearing Loss

- Approximately 28 million Americans have hearing loss.
- 40-50% of people 75 and older have hearing loss.
- 1/1000 newborns are affected with hearing loss.

Taken from <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/hearing.asp>

Impact of hearing loss

- Social isolation
- Cognitive decline
- Dementia
- Depression
- Death



Evaluation of Hearing Loss

- Medical history
- Complete head & neck exam
- Hearing test
- Other studies (imaging, ENG, etc.)

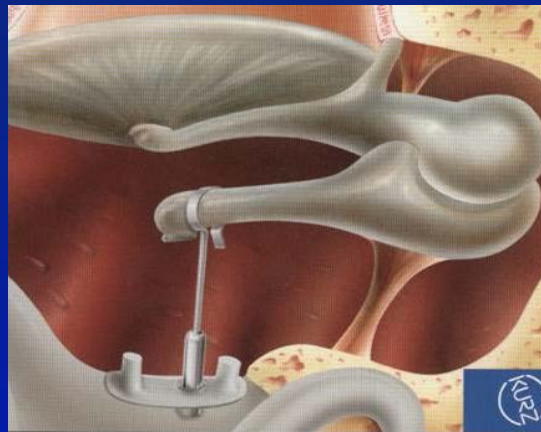
Types of Hearing loss

- Conductive
- Sensorineural
- Mixed



Treatment for Conductive Hearing Loss

- Hearing aid
- Tympanoplasty
- Mastoidectomy
- Ossicular chain reconstruction
- Stapes surgery



Treatment for Sensorineural Hearing Loss

- Hearing aids
- Cochlear implant



Prevalence of Hearing Aid Use Among Adults with Hearing Loss ^a ≥ 25dB % (95% CI)							
Age, years	Sex		Hearing loss severity ^c		Total		
	Male	Female	Mild 25-40 dB	Moderate or Greater >40dB	Overall Prevalence of Hearing Aid Use	Number with Hearing Aids, millions	Number with Hearing Loss ^a ≥25dB, millions
50-59	4.3 (0 – 9.5)	4.5 (0 – 13.5)	2.7 (0 – 6.6)	11.8 (0 – 27.5)	4.3 (0 – 8.8)	0.20	4.5
60-69	7.3 (2.5 – 12.1)	7.2 (1.4 – 13.0)	2.6 (0 – 5.2)	23.9 (10.6 – 37.2)	7.3 (3.6 – 10.9)	0.44	6.1
70-79	21.1 (14.5 – 27.6)	12.7 (6.0 – 19.5)	3.4 (0.3 – 6.5)	47.8 (37.0 – 58.6)	17.0 (12.4 – 21.6)	1.5	8.8
80+	28.1 (20.3 – 35.9)	17.9 (11.2 – 24.7)	3.4 (0 – 7.7)	35.7 (28.7 – 42.7)	22.1 (18.5 – 25.8)	1.6	7.3
Estimated Total Number of Individuals with Hearing Aids and with Hearing Loss, respectively, in millions						3.8	26.7

Why are hearing aids so seldom used?

- Lack of health insurance reimbursement for aural rehabilitative services and devices
- A general perception that hearing loss is an inconsequential part of the aging process
- A current model of hearing health care that focuses on simply dispensing a hearing aid rather than on comprehensive aural rehabilitation.

AAO-HNS Position Statement

- “Hearing impairment is a medical condition requiring evaluation and diagnosis by a physician, preferably an otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeon. Good health practice requires that a person with hearing loss have an evaluation by a physician prior to hearing aid provision.

FDA Red Flag Conditions

- Ear deformity
- Ear drainage or bleeding within 6 months
- Sudden/rapidly progressive hearing loss within 6 months
- Air-bone gap $>15\text{dB}$ (0.5, 1, 2 kHz)
- Asymmetric hearing loss
- Dizziness
- Cerumen/foreign body
- Ear pain and discomfort

Conclusions

- A thorough work-up of hearing loss is essential.
- Patient education is important.
- Making treatments for hearing loss more affordable should be a priority.