



SOUNDWELL

Speech and Hearing Clinic



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SUNDAY CLOSED

WHAT IS HEARING LOSS?

Hearing loss is when your ability to hear is reduced. A **hearing loss** makes it more difficult for you to hear speech and other sounds. The most common causes of **hearing loss** are noise and ageing. In most cases a **hearing loss** cannot be cured.

SYMPTOMS OF HEARING LOSS:

The symptoms of hearing loss can vary depending on the type of hearing loss, the cause of hearing loss, and the degree of loss. In general, people who have hearing loss may experience any or all of the following:

- Difficulty understanding everyday conversation
- A feeling of being able to hear but not understand
- Having to turn up the TV or radio
- Asking others to repeat often
- Avoidance of social situations that were once enjoyable
- Increased difficulty communicating in noisy situations like restaurants, lively family gatherings, in the car or in group meetings
- Tinnitus, or ringing and/or buzzing sounds in the ears

TYPES OF HEARING LOSS:

There are three main types of hearing loss,

- **Sensorineural hearing loss** is the most common type of hearing loss. It is permanent and caused either by damage to tiny hair-like cells in the inner ear or to the auditory nerve. The auditory nerve carries important information about the loudness, pitch and meaning of sounds to the brain. Most adults with hearing loss have a sensorineural loss. Sensorineural hearing loss can often result in difficulty understanding sound or speech even though it is loud enough to hear.

- **Conductive hearing loss** is caused by a mechanical problem in the outer or middle ear or an obstruction in the ear canal such as ear wax that blocks sound from getting to the eardrum. It can be permanent but more often, it is temporary and can be medically treated.
- **Mixed hearing loss** results when there are components of both sensorineural and conductive hearing loss present.

TYPES OF HEARING TEST:

Pure Tone Audiometry

(PTA) is the key hearing test used to identify hearing threshold levels of an individual, enabling determination of the degree, type and configuration of a hearing loss and thus providing a basis for diagnosis and management.

Speech Testing

This type of testing is used to measure your speech reception threshold (SRT), or the faintest speech you can understand 50 percent of the time. It is administered in either a quiet or noisy environment and measures your ability to separate speech from background noise.

Tympanometry

This test measures the movement of your eardrum in response to air pressure. It can determine if there is a buildup of fluid, wax buildup, eardrum perforations or tumors.

Acoustic Reflex Testing

This test measures involuntary muscle contractions of the middle ear and is used to determine the location of your hearing problem (the ossicles, cochlea, auditory nerve, etc.) as well as the type of hearing loss.

Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR)

This type of testing is used to determine whether a specific type of hearing loss—sensorineural—exists. It is also frequently used to screen newborns for hearing problems. In an ABR test, electrodes are attached to your head, scalp or earlobes, and you are given headphones to wear. Your brainwave activity is measured in response to sounds of varying intensities.

Otoacoustic Emissions (OAEs)

OAEs are sounds generated by the vibrations of the hair cells in the cochlea of your inner ear. This type of testing uses a tiny probe fitted with a microphone and speaker to stimulate the cochlea and measure its response. Individuals with normal hearing will produce emissions; when hearing loss exceeds 25-30 decibels, no sound will be produced. This test helps determine whether there is a blockage in the ear canal, excess fluid in the middle ear or damage to the hair cells of the cochlea. OAE testing is often included in newborn hearing screening programs.

HEARING AID SELECTION AND FITTING

The goal in **hearing aid selection and fitting** is to provide comfortable **hearing instruments** that will meet the life-style needs of the patient while easing the patient's communication difficulties and maximizing performance in different listening environments.

Types Of Hearing Aid

INVISIBLE-IN-THE-CANAL (IIC)



This custom-fitted style is inserted farther into the ear canal than other styles, so it's completely invisible* when worn. IIC hearing aids are designed to be removed daily to promote good ear health. For mild to moderate hearing loss.

*Individual results may vary. Invisibility may vary based on your ear's anatomy.

COMPLETELY-IN-CANAL (CIC)



CIC hearing instruments are custom-made to fit completely in the ear canal. Only the tip of a small plastic "handle" shows outside the canal, which is used to insert and remove the instrument. For mild to moderate hearing loss.

IN-THE-CANAL (ITC)



ITC hearing instruments are custom-made to fit in the ear canal with a smaller portion of the hearing aid showing in the outer ear. For mild to mildly severe hearing loss.

IN-THE-EAR (ITE)



ITE hearing instruments are custom-made to fit within the outer portion of the ear. For mild to severe hearing loss

RECEIVER-IN-CANAL (RIC)



Barely visible when worn, the RIC style is an instrument in which the receiver, or speaker, is inside the ear canal. Thin electrical wires are used instead of a plastic acoustical tube, reducing distortion. RIC hearing aids provide a comfortable, open fit. For mild to moderate hearing loss.

BEHIND-THE-EAR (BTE)



The hearing technology is housed in a casing that rests behind the ear. A clear plastic acoustical tube directs amplified sound into an earbud or a customized earmold that is fitted inside the ear canal. For moderate to severe hearing loss.