

Can You Hear It?

Can You Say It?



LIVE IT!

Get the Facts on...

Adult Hearing Impairments

MAY IS SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH!



Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists
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Adult Hearing Impairments

Approximately 10% of the general population, 20% of those over 65 and 40% of those over 75 have a significant hearing problem. At least 80% of the elderly in nursing homes have impaired hearing. Hearing loss is the third most prevalent chronic disability among older adults, superseded only by arthritis and hypertension. Both the incidence and prevalence of hearing loss increases with age. Hearing loss can start as early as the third or fourth decade of life. Hearing loss occurs gradually and can often go unnoticed.

Warning Signs of a Hearing Impairment

- Speech and other sounds seem faint and are often muffled
- Difficulty in understanding someone speaking from a distance
- Difficulty conversing in areas with noisy backgrounds
- Speech and other sounds seem distorted, slurred or lack clarity
- Difficulty in understanding speech even though it may be clear enough

Early detection and treatment is vital.

If you suspect that you or someone you know may have a hearing problem, be sure to contact your doctor or audiologist. Check the yellow pages or the CASLPA web site at www.caslpa.ca to find an audiologist near you.

The Human Ear

The ear consists of three main parts: the outer ear, the middle ear, and the inner ear. From the inner ear the auditory nerve conducts information to the brain with sound being translated into meaning along the pathway. This is called auditory processing.



Three Types of Hearing Impairments:

Conductive Hearing Impairment:

- Occurs in the outer and middle ear
- Commonly caused by wax or fluid build up
- Generally temporary and is usually medically treatable

Sensorineural Hearing Impairment:

- 90% of people with hearing impairments fall into this category
- Occurs as a result of deterioration of the inner ear and/ or auditory nerve and is often referred to as “nerve deafness”
- Commonly caused by the natural aging process, excessive exposure to noise, head trauma and hereditary factors
- Usually permanent but can often be assisted with a hearing aid

Central Hearing Impairment

- Associated with disorders of the auditory centres in the brain
- Usually permanent but can often be assisted with auditory technical devices
- One of the symptoms is difficulty in recognition of language with or without hearing loss