

Types of Hearing Loss



Table of Contents

[Conductive Hearing Loss](#)

[Sensorineural Hearing Loss](#)

[Mixed Hearing Loss](#)

Conductive Hearing Loss

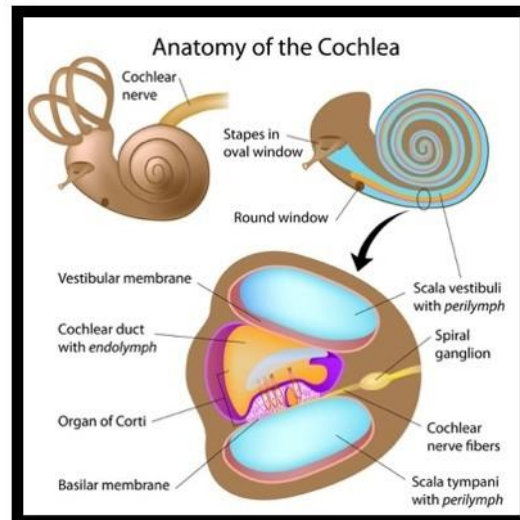
A conductive hearing loss is caused by any problem in the outer or middle ear that prevents sound from getting to the inner ear. Conductive hearing losses tend to cause a mild or moderate degree of hearing loss and can sometimes be temporary and fluctuating. Depending on the specific cause of the problem, medication or surgery may improve hearing.

Some of the conditions that cause conductive hearing loss include:

- Malformation of the ear
- Ear infections/fluid
- Tumors
- Otosclerosis

Individuals with a conductive hearing loss may use a hearing aid or an assistive listening device for communication, environmental sounds (traffic, alarms, etc.) or both.

Sensorineural Hearing Loss



Sensorineural hearing loss results from missing or damaged hair cells in the cochlea and is usually permanent. Sensorineural hearing loss can be mild, moderate, severe or profound and not only affects one's ability to hear sounds it also reduces the quality of the sound, which often makes speech difficult to understand.

Sensorineural hearing loss can be caused by:

- Trauma to the head
- Tumors
- Exposure to loud noises
- Genetic conditions
- Age
- Meniere's disease

People with a sensorineural hearing loss may wear a hearing aid or use an assistive listening device for communication, environmental sounds (traffic, alarms) or both.

Mixed Hearing Loss

It is possible to have both a conductive and sensorineural hearing loss. This is referred to as a mixed hearing loss. A mixed hearing loss is a result of damage in both the outer

or middle ear and in the inner ear. The severity of hearing loss can range from mild to profound. A person with a mixed hearing loss can experience sounds being softer in volume but also more difficult to understand.