

Ask yourself the following questions:

Do I think people are mumbling?

Do I ask people to repeat themselves?

Do I turn the volume on the television louder?

I can hear, but do I always understand what people say to me?

Do I avoid social interaction because I can't follow the conversation?

Do I have trouble hearing on the telephone?

Do I have trouble hearing in restaurants and other noisy environments?

Do your friends and family tell you that you are missing things?

You may have a form of hearing loss.

A hearing evaluation with an audiologist can determine this.

Only 13 percent of physicians screen for hearing loss.

Ask your doctor if a hearing evaluation is part of your annual physical.

Complete audiologic services for adults and children:

- Middle ear testing
- Complete hearing testing
- Newborn hearing screening
- Auditory brainstem response
- Vestibular (balance) testing
- Ototoxic monitoring
- Amplification and assistive listening devices
- Cerumen management

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Listen Up

Annual hearing exam

1-888-440-7325
www.stjohn.org

Myth #1

All hearing “Specialists” are the same

An audiologist is a health care professional that has a masters or doctorate college degree in hearing and balance studies. They also complete a clinical fellowship year and have to pass a national examination. Audiologists are trained to evaluate hearing disorders and determine the need for medical referral or non-medical assistance. An audiologist has extensive training in hearing aids and assistive listening devices.

It is important to know who you are seeing for your hearing health. Ask your hearing health care provider about their credentials and qualifications. Your health is very important and should be important to your health care provider.

“Blindness separates us from things but deafness separates us from people”

-Helen Keller

Myth #2

Even if I have a Hearing Loss, it can't be helped

There are several types of hearing loss. The type of hearing loss that you have will determine the type of treatment that will benefit you.

Conductive hearing loss - A conductive hearing loss is a hearing loss that occurs when there is a disorder with the ear canal, ear drum, bones of the ear or middle ear space that does not allow sound to get to the hearing nerve even though the nerve is normal and functioning. If an audiologist determines that you have a conductive hearing loss, you will be referred to a physician for a medical evaluation. You may need medication or surgery to cure this type of hearing loss. The course of treatment will be determined by your physician.

Sensorineural hearing loss – This is what is commonly referred to as a “nerve” loss. This is a loss of hearing sensitivity due to a disorder involving the hearing nerve. It can be caused by noise exposure, illness or medical disorders, medications, genetics or aging. Some of these hearing losses can be treated through medical intervention, but the majority cannot. However, the majority of these hearing losses can be helped with amplifications and communication strategies.

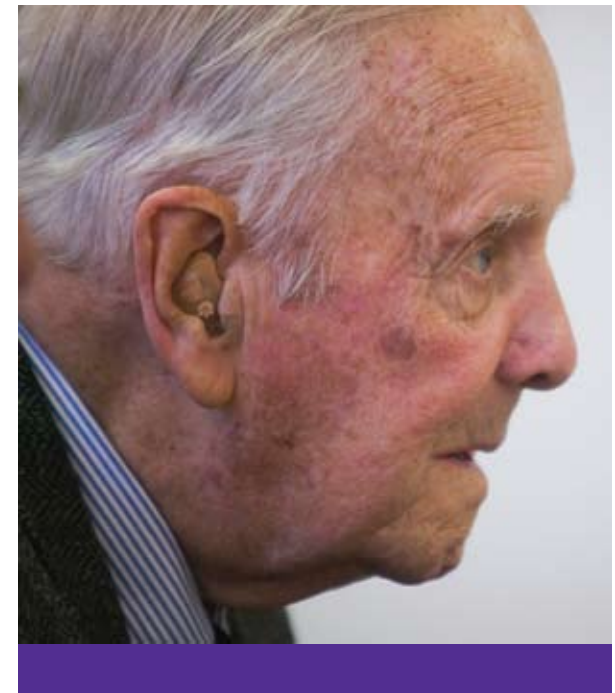
Your audiologist can discuss your hearing treatment options with you.

1 out of 10 Americans have a hearing loss.

1.4 million of them are children.

15 percent of baby boomers (ages 45–64) have hearing loss.

29 percent of people over age 54 have hearing loss.



Myth #3

My grandma's hearing aids didn't work

Will mine be the same?

Today's hearing aid is not your grandma's hearing aid. The majority of hearing aids available are “digital”. This allows the hearing aid to be more like natural hearing. Hearing aids are programmed specifically for your hearing loss and everyday listening needs. Many hearing aids have the ability to change how it listens to sounds in different environments so you can get the best sound quality. They can have special microphones to help you hear noisy environments. They come in many colors and sizes and are custom fit to your ear.

Remember: A hearing loss is more noticeable than a hearing aid will be.