



Types of Hearing Loss

When it comes to hearing loss, there are various types. The most common are listed below.

- * **Conductive hearing loss** - when hearing loss is due to problems with the ear canal, ear drum, or middle ear and its little bones (the malleus, incus, and stapes).
- * **Sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL)** - when hearing loss is due to problems of the inner ear, also known as nerve-related hearing loss.
- * **Mixed hearing loss** - refers to a combination of conductive and sensorineural hearing loss. This means that there may be damage in the outer or middle ear and in the inner ear (cochlea) or auditory nerve.

Some Causes

Conductive Hearing Loss

- * Malformation of outer ear, ear canal, or middle ear
- * Fluid from colds
- * Ear infection
- * Allergies
- * Poor Eustachian tube function
- * Perforated eardrum
- * Benign tumors
- * Impacted earwax
- * Infection in the ear canal

Sensorineural Hearing Loss

- * Exposure to loud noise
- * Head or trauma
- * Virus or disease
- * Hereditary
- * Aging
- * Malformation of the inner ear
- * Meniere's disease
- * Otosclerosis
- * Tumors

Source: Hearing Loss of America website at www.hearingloss.org. For more information, go to the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries' website at www.umdeaf.org.



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