

PATIENT INFORMATION

Types of Hearing Loss

Type of loss:

Conductive hearing loss

This means that there is a problem in the outer/middle ear which is preventing sound from being transmitted to the inner ear.

Sensorineural hearing loss

This means that there is a problem with the inner ear (cochlea) or the nerve pathways from the ear. This type of hearing loss is often caused by damage to the hair cells within the cochlea.

Mixed hearing loss

A mixed hearing loss means that there is a problem with both the outer/middle ear and the inner ear (the cochlea).

Severity of loss:

Mild (20-40 deciBels)

Someone with a mild hearing loss will probably have minimal difficulty with conversation in quiet. However they often experience problems hearing in background noise and in groups.

Moderate (41-70 deciBels)

Someone with a moderate hearing loss may have problems with conversation in quiet places as well as noisy places.

Severe (71-95 deciBels)

Someone with a moderate hearing loss may have problems with conversation in quiet places as well as noisy places.

Profound (over 95 deciBels)

Someone with a profound hearing loss will not usually rely on hearing as their primary method of communication.

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

Working with you, for you