CHICAGO ENT

HEARING TESTS

What is an audiologist?

An audiologist is a hearing health-care expert who helps prevent, diagnose, and manage hearing and balance disorders for people of all ages. Our audiologist will help patients understand what part of their hearing system may be causing a breakdown, will conduct a functional communication assessment to identify a patient's hearing needs, and helps guide patients through the process of selecting the most appropriate level and type of hearing technology to address their hearing needs. It is recommended anyone with concern about their hearing get evaluated by a licensed audiologist as the first step, even if they intend to purchase an over the counter (OTC) hearing aid.

Why do I need to see an audiologist?

- Asymmetrical hearing
- A sudden onset of hearing loss in one or both ears
- Ringing, roaring, or beeping in one or both ears (tinnitus)
- A history of exposure to ototoxic medications
- A history of chemotherapy and/or radiation to the head and neck region (hearing loss related to chemotherapy often occurs closer to treatment, whereas hearing loss related to radiation can have a delayed onset)
- Experiencing greater than a perceived mild to moderate hearing loss.

What to expect?

- An audiologist will collect information about your hearing health history and check your ears before administering hearing tests.
- Your audiology appointment will start with a brief review of your medical history, medications, self-reported symptoms, and family history.
- The audiologist will conduct a visual examination of your ear canal and ear drum using an instrument called an otoscope.
- After completing the medical screening and physical exam, the audiologist performs one or more tests to assess your overall hearing health hearing tests to determine the severity, type, and underlying cause of your hearing loss. If you're wearing hearing aids, you'll be asked to take them out.
- After your tests, you may be asked to return to consult your ENT provider for a longer-term treatment plan.