



Types of hearing loss

Hearing loss originates from issues associated with different parts of the ear. Treatment options can only be determined once the type and cause of the hearing loss is identified.

Conductive Hearing Loss

A conductive hearing loss (CHL) is caused when sound is blocked in the outer or middle ear. This causes a loss of loudness.

Some causes of this are:

- excessive earwax
- damaged eardrum
- ear infection or fluid in the middle ear
- stiffness in the bones of the middle ear (otosclerosis)



CHL is often medically treatable. Where this isn't possible or effective, hearing aids are often very helpful.

Sensorineural Hearing Loss

A sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL) is where the hair cells in the inner ear or the hearing nerve is damaged

and cannot send complete signals to the brain. The can result in a loss of loudness and a lack of clarity.

Some causes are:

- ageing
- noise exposure
- hereditary factors

This type of hearing loss is usually permanent and cannot be corrected with medicine or surgery. Hearing aids and other listening devices can be very helpful.

Mixed Hearing Loss (MHL)

This is where both CHL and SNHL exist in combination.