

Hearing Health Matters!



Ontario Association of Professional Audiology Clinics
Your Hearing Deserves An Audiologist

Hearing Loss and High-frequencies: Do hearing aids help?

"I hear but I don't understand", "People are mumbling", "I can't hear when there's background noise", "I can't hear the television", are likely common complaints your patients report, especially your older patients.

High-frequency hearing loss is one of the most common types of hearing losses we see in our audiology clinics. The causes of this type of hearing loss are numerous and include: aging or presbycusis, noise exposure, ototoxic medications, and disease.¹ Presbycusis is the most common type of Sensorineural Hearing Loss² caused by the natural aging of the auditory system. It occurs gradually and initially affects the ability to hear higher pitched sounds.

People with high-frequency hearing losses are unable to hear clearly because high-frequency hearing loss limits the intelligibility of speech. The consonants or hissing sounds such as "s", "f", "sh" are in the high-frequency range and are important for speech understanding. The perception of volume may be normal because vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u) are in the low frequency range and convey the volume of speech.

With advances in technology, hearing aids today are very effective in treating high-frequency hearing losses. Open fit hearing aids, custom-made hearing aids with large vents and better feedback managers, and frequency-lowering technology are all advances that have been made that specifically target high-frequency hearing loss. Hearing aids help restore the audibility of the consonant speech sounds so that our patients can hear and understand speech again.

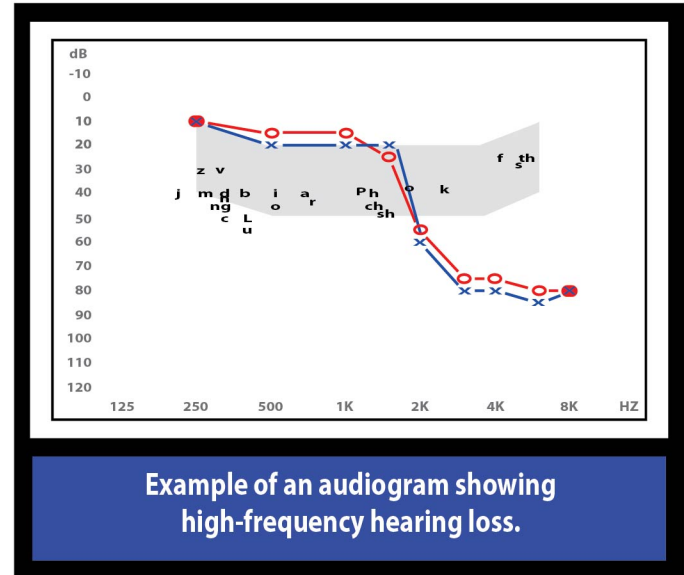
However, *"Substantial evidence exists that hearing loss in older persons is underdiagnosed and undertreated, despite the availability of effective treatment. The primary care physician should vigilantly ask about hearing loss in older patients and recognize common symptoms of hearing impairment (...)"*³

That being said, these complaints or symptoms should not be ignored. Encourage your patients to see an OAPAC audiologist so that we can treat their hearing loss as soon as possible.

References

- ¹ <https://www.healthyhearing.com/help/hearing-loss/causes>
- ² <https://hearnet.org.au/hearing-problems/presbycusis>
- ³ Yueh, B., Shapiro, N., MacLean, C. H., Shekelle, P. G. (2003, April 16). Screening and management of adult hearing loss in primary care. JAMA, Vol. 289 (15), p. 1983-84.

Greater emphasis is being placed on hearing health.



Example of an audiogram showing high-frequency hearing loss.

The Ontario Association of Professional Audiology Clinics (OAPAC) represents independent audiology practices in Ontario.

Like Physicians, Audiologists of OAPAC

- ✓ Own and manage their practice
- ✓ No quotas, no franchises, no conflict of interest
- ✓ Assess and make appropriate recommendations
- ✓ Share the licensed Act to prescribe hearing aids
- ✓ Offer full scope of practice to all ages
- ✓ Are regulated...No misleading advertising, no testimonials

**To find an OAPAC Clinic near you, call
1-844-41-2-HEAR (4327)**



Audiologists spend 7 to 9 years in University. The minimum requirement to practice in Ontario is a Masters Degree in Audiology or equivalent.

Sudden hearing loss? Call us immediately!

1-844-41-2-HEAR (4327)

www.oapac.ca

With so many places to refer your patients, it becomes difficult to choose what is best for your patient.

- As independent practices we are not limited. We associate with 10 different hearing aid manufacturers.
- As audiologist owned-and-operated clinics, our services are fully regulated which means that your patients are fully protected.