



Mixed Hearing Loss

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[Types of Hearing Loss](#)



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Mixed Hearing Loss occurs when both sensorineural hearing loss and conductive hearing loss exist together.

- **Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SNHL):** “Sensory” hearing loss is when there is an irregularity in the little hair cells or structures of the inner ear. “Neural” Hearing loss occurs when the hearing nerve is irregular. SNHL is diagnosed when it’s unclear where the problem exists in the inner ear. SNHL can occur for many reasons: illness, genetics, medications, as part of a syndrome, as well as unknown causes.
- **Conductive Hearing Loss:** This type of loss occurs when sound cannot move through the middle or outer ear due to an irregularity. Common causes are earwax blocking the ear canal, fluid buildup in the middle ear, infection, injury, or a bone abnormality.
- **Mixed Hearing Loss:**
 - Treatment can sometimes resolve the conductive part of hearing loss (medicine or surgery), but cannot usually resolve the sensorineural part of hearing loss.
 - Irregularities in the outer and/or middle ear can cause a temporary or permanent change in hearing. All hearing loss can have a significant impact on an infant’s ability to learn, listen, and talk; so treatment should be investigated and started as early as possible.
 - Treatment options include Bone Anchored Hearing Systems (BAHA), hearing aids, and/or cochlear implantation.
 - For children with any type of hearing loss, it’s recommended to see a Pediatric Audiologist who is a specialist dedicated to working only with infants and children.

