

Will a Hearing Aid Restore My Sensorineural Hearing Loss?

SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS (SNHL) occurs when there is damage to the inner ear (cochlea) or to the nerve pathways from the inner ear to the brain. It is the most common type of permanent hearing loss.¹ Most people with sensorineural hearing loss report that they do hear, but they cannot hear well under certain conditions. They may not be able to hear simple sounds, such as birds chirping, or discriminate more complex sounds, such as women's and children's voices or speech in noisy conditions. When people experience hearing loss, they should make an appointment to meet with an audiologist, who may prescribe a hearing aid.

FAQ About SNHL

Many people wonder if their hearing will become worse if they don't get a hearing aid when they first notice they have difficulty hearing. Research indicates that it may.²⁻⁷

Hearing aids, which provide valuable sensory stimulation to the auditory system, may slow the process of sensorineural hearing loss.

Hearing aids primarily improve how well people use their residual hearing. They provide valuable sensory stimulation to the auditory system that otherwise might deteriorate over time.

Another question people may have after visiting an audiologist and learning they have a hearing loss is whether their affected



ear will become “lazy” if they don't get a hearing aid. It may.²⁻⁷ Ears function like an arm or leg – lack of use can result in both physical and functional loss.

An ear is a body organ that needs to work. Sensory organs that are not stimulated are vulnerable to various levels of physical atrophy and/or dysfunction. Therefore, when prescribed by an audiologist, amplification should be used to reduce the physical and physiological impact of sensory deprivation. Improved communication is sure to enhance your quality of life.

Summary

While hearing aids do not physically repair damaged ears and hearing, they may slow

the process of sensorineural hearing loss and auditory processing problems by helping to prevent auditory deprivation.

Most importantly, hearing aids improve quality of life for most people when they are prescribed by an audiologist and when they are worn according to the audiologist's recommendations. [Lipm](#)

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