Deafness

A hearing loss is called deafness.

This can be caused by:

- Wax in the ear canal.
- Fluid in the middle ear.
- Exposure to loud sounds or music.
- Infection.
- A hole in the eardrum.
- Problems with the hearing nerve.

Hearing loss without wax, infection or a history of injury may mean that the nerve is involved.
Hearing loss along with severe dizziness, nausea and vomiting or ringing in the ear suggests a hearing nerve irritation or problems in the middle ear.

The best exam for deafness is a hearing test *(audiometry)*.

Treatment for recent onset of deafness may include:

- Ear wax removal.
- Antibiotics for infection.
- Cortisone medications.

Return of hearing depends on the cause of your deafness, so proper medical follow-up is important to insure the best treatment.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have a severe headache or dizziness.
- You develop repeated vomiting or other serious medical problems.

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