

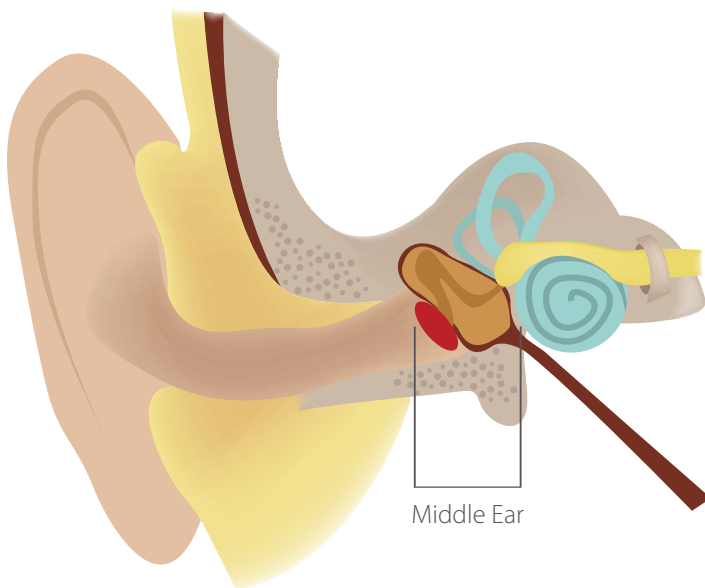
Common Ear Problems

Conditions that help lead to hearing loss include a ringing or buzzing in the ear, age-related hearing loss, and hereditary causes. Older adults are the largest group affected by hearing loss. Hearing loss can happen from:

- Too much noise
- Certain medicines
- Infections caused by bacteria or viruses
- Head injuries
- Head tumors
- Stroke
- Inherited conditions

For hearing loss treatment options, consult your primary care provider.

Infections

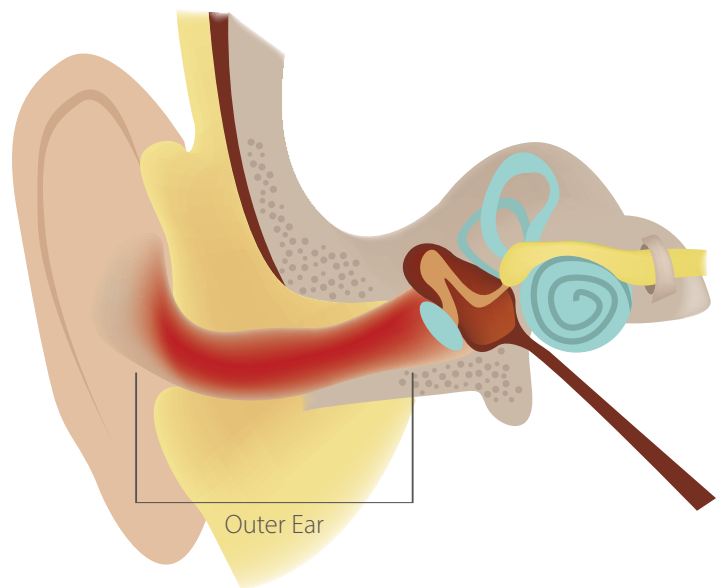


Middle Ear Infections

A middle ear infection occurs behind the eardrum. A virus or bacteria most often causes it. Most children have at least one middle ear infection by the time they are 3 years old, but adults can also get them.

Symptoms of middle ear infections:

- Ear pain
- A feeling of fullness in the ear
- Fluid draining from the ear
- Fever
- Hearing loss



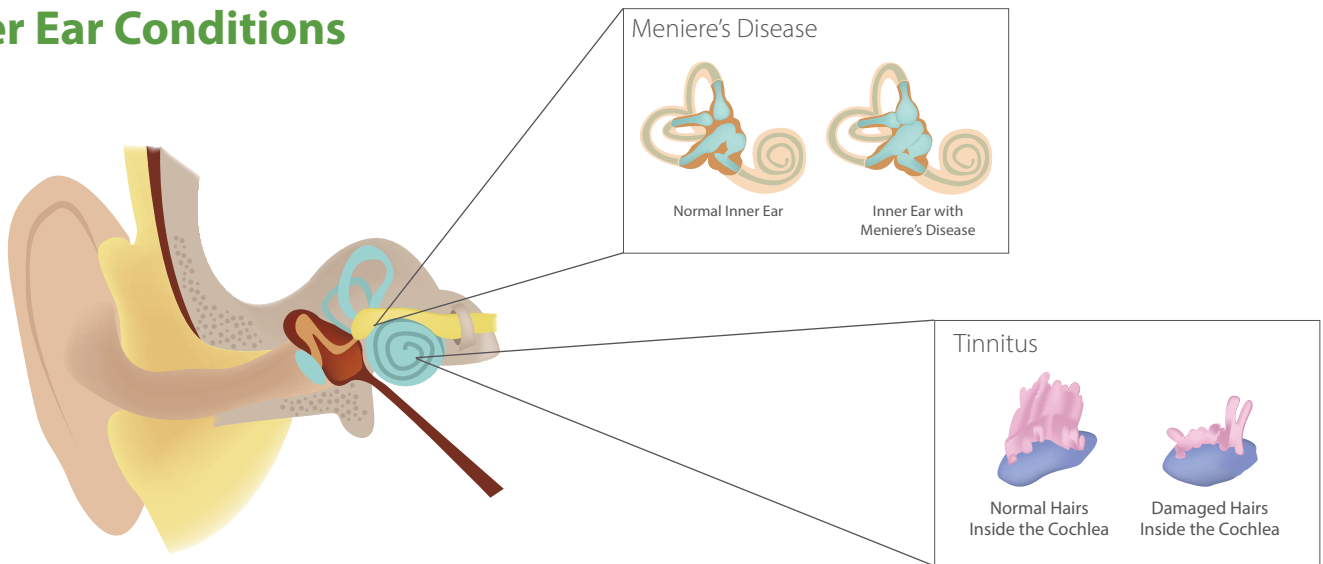
Outer Ear Infection

Often referred to as swimmer's ear, this infection can occur when water gets trapped in the ear canal.

Causes of outer ear infections:

- Being in warm, humid, or damp places
- Cleaning or scratching your ear canal using your fingers, cotton swabs, or other objects
- Having an injury to the ear canal
- Having dry ear canal skin
- Having an object in the ear canal
- Having too much earwax
- Having eczema or other inflammatory skin conditions

Inner Ear Conditions



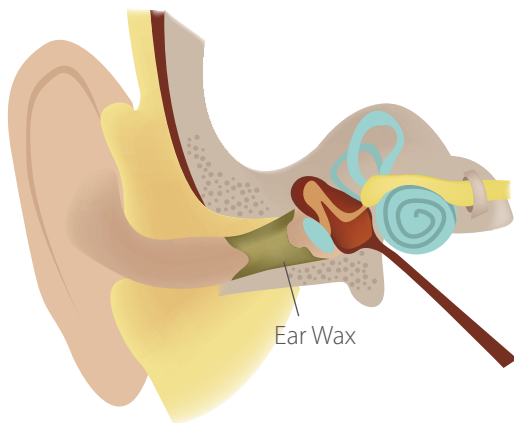
Meniere's Disease

This can occur when there's too much fluid in parts of your inner ear. Symptoms include ringing in your ears, episodes of dizziness, and hearing loss. It's not clear what causes it, and there's no known cure.

Tinnitus

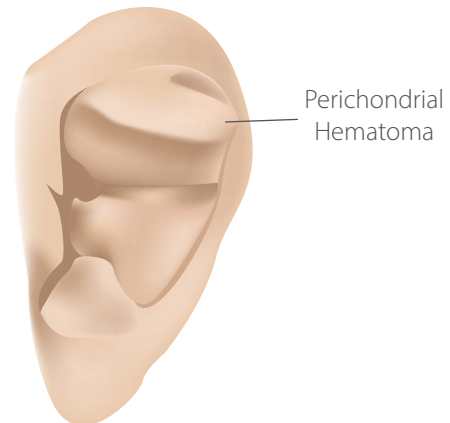
Many things can contribute to tinnitus, but the most common is when the tiny hairs in your inner ear become damaged. Tinnitus is the sound of ringing, roaring, buzzing, hissing, or clicking inside the head. The sounds may come and go, or they may be ongoing. Tinnitus may happen in one or both ears.

Other Common Ear Conditions



Impacted Ear Wax

Sometimes, too much wax can build up in the ear. If this happens, your ears could itch, ring, drain fluid, or become odorous. You might also have hearing problems on one side, the side with the wax, and sometimes feel as if you are underwater.



Cauliflower Ear

Common among wrestlers, this is caused by repeated hits and cuts to the ear that cause bruising. This creates blood clots that lead to a lumpy look. But it can affect more than how it looks. A recent study shows this type of ear damage can make you more likely to get infections and lose your hearing.

WebMD. "Picture of the Ear"
Accessed at <https://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/ear-infection/picture-of-the-ear#1>
Medline Plus. "Ear Disorders"
Accessed at <https://medlineplus.gov/eardisorders.html>

Austin Regional Clinic. "Common Ear Problems: Hearing Loss, Infections, Tinnitus, and more"
Accessed at <https://www.austinregionalclinic.com/services/ear-nose-and-throat-ent/ear>