PATIENTS WHO MAY NEED TO SEE A HEARING HEALTHCARE SPECIALIST

• Difficulty picking out words in the presence of background noise
• Speaks loudly and has trouble understanding or responding
• Have history of falls; or have problems with balance or dizziness
• Depression, worry or anxiety, related to the inability to hear
• Complaints of Tinnitus - buzzing or ringing sounds in one or both ears
• Patients exposed to high noise levels on their jobs above 85 decibels
• Everybody mumbles - difficulty hearing women and children's voices

RISK FACTORS AND SYMPTOMS FOR HEARING LOSS

• Age (45-65 years old~ 20%) or anyone 65 or older (29%)
• Age above 50 years
• Age above 18 years when a high-risk co-morbidity is present – eg. diabetes
• Cardiovascular Disease, Hypertension – 3x greater incidence
• Diabetes – 2x greater incidence
• Obesity – 2x greater incidence
• Smoker, past smoker or exposed to second hand smoke - 2x greater incidence
• Dizziness – lightheadedness, imbalance/ or vertigo
• Balance issues may co-exist with hearing loss
• Irritability or socially withdrawn, symptoms of depression
• Usage of ototoxic medications – Salicylates (aspirin and NSAIDS), Aminoglycosides (Antibiotics), Loop Diuretics, and Antineoplastic Agents (Anti-Cancer Drugs)