

Pathophysiology of Deafness

- ✓ There are three types of Deafness — sensorineural Deafness, conductive Deafness, and mixed Deafness.

1. Sensorineural Deafness

Sensorineural Deafness It occurs when the inner ear nerves and hair cells are damaged perhaps due to age, noise damage Aging, Injury, Excessive noise exposure, Viral infections (such as measles or mumps), Shingles, Ototoxic drugs (medications that damage hearing), Meningitis, Diabetes, Stroke, High fever or elevated body temperature, Ménière's disease (a disorder of the inner ear that can affect hearing and balance), Acoustic tumors, Heredity, Obesity, Smoking or Hypertension. Sensorineural Deafness impacts the pathways from your inner ear to your brain. Most times, sensorineural Deafness cannot be corrected medically or surgically, but can be treated and helped with the use of hearing aids.

2. Conductive Deafness

Conductive Deafness is typically the result of obstructions in the outer or middle ear perhaps due to fluid, tumors, earwax, even ear formation Infections of the ear canal or middle ear resulting in fluid or pus buildup, Perforation or scarring of the eardrum, Wax buildup, Dislocation of the middle ear bones (ossicles), Foreign object in the ear canal, Otosclerosis (an abnormal bone growth in the middle ear) or Abnormal growths or tumors. This obstruction prevents sound from getting to the inner ear. Conductive hearing loss can often be treated surgically or with medicine.

3. Mixed Deafness

Mixed Deafness is just what it sounds like a combination of sensorineural and conductive hearing loss.

As with any medical condition, it's best to know what you "have" before deciding what to do about it. A consultation with a hearing professional can help determine the type, cause and degree of your hearing loss.

✓ Degrees of Deafness

There are four clinically labeled degrees of Deafness:

1) Mild:

If you have mild Deafness, you may hear some speech sounds, but will have difficulty with soft sounds.

2) Moderate:

If you have moderate Deafness, you'll struggle to hear/understand speech when someone is talking at a normal level.

3) Severe:

If you have severe Deafness, you will hear little-to-no speech when spoken at normal levels, and hear only some loud sounds.

4) Profound:

If you have profound Deafness, you may only hear very loud sounds and no speech at all.

<https://www.starkey.com/hearing-loss/types-and-causes>