

OTOTOXICITY RISK AWARENESS



HEARING HEALTH DECISIONS

IN THE U.S., OVER 100 CLASSES OF DRUGS COMMONLY USED TO TREAT PAIN AND INFECTIONS, AS WELL AS CANCER, HEART OR KIDNEY DISEASE, CAN **DAMAGE THE INNER EAR.**^[1]

DID YOU KNOW?

The manner in which certain drugs can cause ringing in the ears (Tinnitus),^[2] followed by hearing loss or dizziness, is known as "ototoxicity".



RESEARCH INDICATES

Exposure to ototoxic drugs can damage...

...inner ear sensory hair cells necessary for hearing and balance, often on a permanent basis.^{[3] [4]}

TALK TO YOUR CARING DOCTORS:

Who will help educate you about the hearing health-related side effects of treatment-related medications.

OUR EXPERT ADVICE CAN HELP!

GET EXPERT HEARING TESTING:

Including baseline and regular screenings which will enable early detection of ototoxic impact as well as timely response if and when hearing loss occurs.



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[1] American Academy of Audiology Position Statement and Clinical Practice Guidelines Ototoxicity Monitoring. audiology.org 2009 [2] Ototoxic Medications, Drugs that can cause hearing loss and tinnitus. League for the Hard of Hearing 2000 [3] Schacht, *et al*: Cisplatin and Aminoglycoside Antibiotics: Hearing Loss and Its Prevention, *The Anatomical Record* (Hoboken). 2012 [4] Rybak and Ramkumar, Ototoxicity. *Kidney International* 2007



ARE YOU AT RISK FOR HEARING LOSS?

✓ Check all that apply

- I have difficulty understanding speech in the presence of background noise or in a crowded restaurant.
- I avoid social situations that require me to participate in conversations.
- I avoid the movies or theater because I miss so much.
- I have greater difficulty understanding females and children.
- My family and friends complain that I am not hearing accurately.
- Others notice that I turn the volume on my television or radio too loud.
- I have difficulty conversing on the telephone.
- I ask others to repeat themselves often during conversations.

✓ Questions I'd like to ask my Hearing Health Expert

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



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