

Hearing loss and diabetes.



DID YOU KNOW...

...that hearing loss is more prevalent in people with diabetes? In fact, 21% of diabetics have hearing loss compared to 9% of non-diabetics¹.

Another significant study that examined hearing data from participants in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey between 1999 and 2004 showed that of the more than 5,000 individuals who took part, hearing loss appeared in 15% of those without diabetes and more than 30% in those diagnosed with diabetes². The research team's report concluded that screening for hearing loss would allow for early medical intervention that could improve hearing for adults with diabetes.

Since hearing loss is a potential complication among those diagnosed with diabetes, it is important to get hearing checked at least once a year. The earlier hearing loss is diagnosed, the more effective treatment options, such as hearing aids, are likely to be. And, hearing aids can prevent cognitive decline, injury-causing falls, and even the early onset of dementia.

A simple hearing screening may preserve your patient's health and safety.

Courtesy of:

HEARING WELLNESS CENTER

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¹ Bainbridge, K et al (2008) Diabetes and hearing impairment in the U.S: Audiometric evidence from the national health and nutrition examination survey, 1999-2004. *Annals of Medicine*. 149, 1, 1-10.

² *Annals of Internal Medicine*. NIH Public Access. Diabetes and Hearing Impairment in the United States: Audiometric Evidence from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, 1999-2004. Kathleen E. Bainbridge, PhD, et al. 2008.

