
THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING AUDIOLOGY WHEN TREATING PATIENTS AT RISK FOR DEMENTIA

How are **hearing loss** and **dementia** connected and why is it important? **The Hill Hear Better Clinic can help physicians treat patients who are at risk for this condition.** Here's why hearing matters when **treating patients at risk for dementia.**

The Relationship Between Hearing Loss and Dementia

Signs of dementia related to hearing loss are similar to those of cognitive decline, include **difficulty speaking, understanding speech, or remembering what is said.** A patient may display rapidly deteriorating hearing ability.

Hearing loss can happen naturally as a person ages, but it **can also change the way their brain works.** When the parts of the brain responsible for hearing and comprehension aren't being used properly, they will lose functionality over time. **If the brain is doing more work to understand speech due to a hearing loss, less energy is available to remember what is being said. For these reasons, hearing loss is considered the number-one modifiable risk factor for dementia.**

Caring For Patients

Hearing loss cannot be reversed, but it can be treated - and **it can help slow the onset of dementia.** Help your patient and their family members understand the risks of untreated hearing loss, including dementia.

Our audiologists are experienced in finding the right solution for any level of hearing loss. **Hearing aids can slow or halt cognitive decline and dementia in patients experiencing hearing loss. A hearing test can help determine risks and causes of cognitive decline.**

Articles for Further Research

Read the latest research linking hearing loss and dementia:

[Dementia prevention, intervention, and care, The Lancet Commission, 2024](#)

[Risk reduction of cognitive decline and dementia: WHO guidelines, WHO, 2019](#)

To learn more about how hearing loss treatment can benefit your patients, email
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