
Exposing Hidden Hearing Loss

INTRODUCTION

Noise exposure and aging are common causes of acquired sensorineural hearing loss, marked by damaged hair cells and evident in threshold audiograms. Recent studies have shown that well before overt hearing loss is apparent, a more insidious process frequently occurs, one that doesn't kill hair cells, but instead permanently interrupts their communication with cochlear neurons. This cochlear synaptic loss can be dramatic, even in ears with normal threshold audiograms, where it has been called "hidden hearing loss." This webinar will review hidden and overt effects of noise and aging on the ear and hearing, focusing on documented synaptopathic and neurodegenerative outcomes and predicted functional consequences, including speech-in noise difficulties, tinnitus, and hyperacusis.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- identify strengths and limitations of threshold tests in characterizing age-related and noise-induced functional compromise
- describe common consequences of TTS-producing noise exposure on the ear and hearing
- define cochlear synaptopathy and hidden hearing loss

This webinar is part of ASHA's Carhart Series of Audiology Webinars, named in honor of the "father of audiology" and past ASHA president, Dr. Raymond Carhart. He expressed a love for the clinic and for practitioners who work hard each day to solve patients' hearing and communication challenges. Reflecting Carhart's spirit of curiosity and his appreciation for discovery and practical application, the series features expert speakers who use evidence-based decision-making to propose solutions to the top clinical dilemmas that audiologists face in daily practice.

PROGRAM HISTORY AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Live webinar date: May 9, 2018

End date: May 10, 2022

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the learning assessment **on or before May 10, 2022**, whichever comes first.

To see if this program has been renewed after this date, please search by title in ASHA's online store at www.asha.org/shop.

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ASHA Professional Development is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. **See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area.** ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course is offered for 0.2 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).