



The Value of Audiology: Hearing Loss and Cognitive Decline/Dementia

Using Amplification to Treat Hearing Loss Reduces the Known Risk of Cognitive Decline/Dementia and Improves Quality of Life.



Hearing loss (HL) has been identified as a risk factor for dementia and/or cognitive impairment.

- Compared to those with typical hearing, individuals with HL are **1.9 times** more likely to develop dementia and **2.78 times** more likely to have co-occurring cognitive impairment. ^{1,2}
- Individuals are **1.89 times** more likely to develop dementia with mild HL, **3 times** more likely with moderate HL, and **4.49 times** more likely with severe HL compared to those with typical hearing. ³
- Individuals with age-related HL are **2 times** more likely to have co-occurring cognitive impairment and **2.42 times** more likely to develop dementia. ⁴



Treating hearing loss with amplification reduces the likelihood of developing dementia and improves cognitive function.

- When using amplification, individuals with HL show **no increased risk** of dementia compared to individuals with typical hearing. ⁵
- By treating hearing loss, the prevalence of dementia would be reduced by **8.2%**. ¹
- Global cognitive function scores increased **4.8% to 6.4%** among amplification users. ^{6,7}
- Individuals using amplification also demonstrated improvements in short-term memory (**12.5%-20.7%**), attention (**16.4%**), and long term/episodic memory (**1.5 times**) abilities. ^{6,8,9}
- After cochlear implantation, **81%** of adults showed improvements in cognitive performance and **32%** of those with mild cognitive impairment returned to typical cognitive function. ^{8,9}
- Among older adults at increased risk for cognitive decline, the use of hearing aids reduced cognitive decline by **48% over three years**. ¹⁰

Additional benefits of amplification



References

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