



Who's Who in the Evaluation, Diagnosis and Treatment Of Hearing-Related Problems

Otolaryngologist: If you are suffering from a hearing-related problem, you should first see your otolaryngologist (ENT) to determine if it is caused by a medical condition. Your ENT (EAR, Nose & Throat) physician will be able to evaluate and diagnose your symptoms. If it is treatable, the ENT physician will discuss treatment options with you. Your ENT may suggest a complete audiological evaluation performed by an Audiologist.

Otologist: An otologist is an Otolaryngologist who has obtained additional training in the medical and surgical management of dizziness, hearing loss, and tumors of the ear. Otologists are consulted to perform surgeries such as Cochlear Implants, mastoidectomies, tympanoplasties (repair of the eardrum or middle ear bones), stapedectomies and surgeries to relieve dizziness. Otologists work closely with audiologists, and referrals generally come from pediatricians, family practitioners, internists, allergists, audiologists and otolaryngologists.

Audiologists are non-medical professionals who specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of hearing and balance problems. Your audiologist will work in conjunction with your ENT to determine if a medical or non-medical approach to your tinnitus is most appropriate. Professional audiologists hold a Master's Degree in Audiology or Hearing Sciences.

Self Help Groups often provide a great deal of needed emotional support. Self Help Groups are not only a great comfort but also they are a great network to obtain more information on hearing loss, hearing technologies and other related subjects. Local professionals who work with persons with hearing loss run many self-help Groups.