

## **PATIENTS WHO MAY NEED TO SEE AN AUDIOLOGIST**

- Difficulty picking out words in the presence of background noise
- Describes moments lacking clarity in speech or understanding
- Complaints of Tinnitus - buzzing or ringing sounds in one or both ears
- Difficulty hearing on the phone or television
- Speaks loudly and has trouble understanding or responding
- Have history of falls; or have problems with balance or dizziness
- Depression, worry or anxiety, related to the inability to hear
- Patients exposed to high noise levels on their jobs or recreationally
- Reports everybody mumbles
- Others say the television or radio is too loud
- Difficulty multitasking and/or learning in school

## **RISK FACTORS AND SYMPTOMS FOR HEARING LOSS**

- Age – 45-65 years old (20%) or anyone 65 or older (29%)
- Cardiovascular Disease, Hypertension – 3x greater incidence
- Diabetes – 2x greater incidence
- Obesity – 2x greater incidence
- Age above 50 years
- Smoker, past smoker or exposed to second hand smoke - 2x greater incidence
- Dizziness – lightheadedness, imbalance or vertigo
- Balance issues
- Irritability or socially withdrawn, symptoms of depression
- Usage of ototoxic medications – Salicylates (aspirin and NSAIDs), Aminoglycosides (Antibiotics), Loop Diuretics, and Antineoplastic Agents (Anti-Cancer Drugs)