

NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS

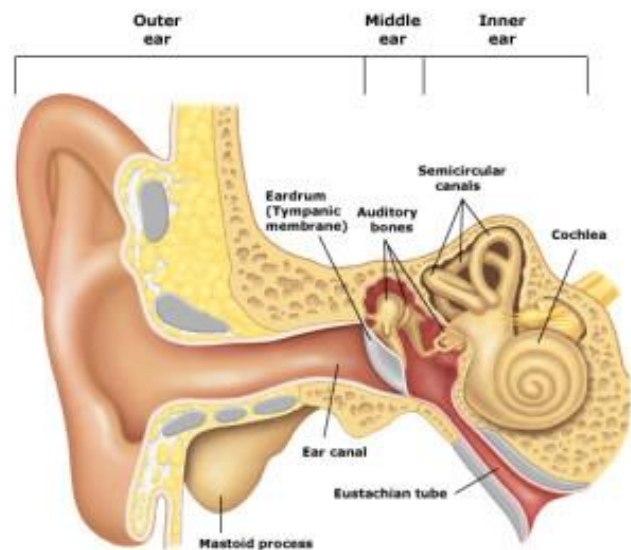
About

NIHL can also be caused by extremely loud bursts of sound, such as gunshots or explosions, which can rupture the eardrum or **damage** the bones in the middle **ear**. This kind of **NIHL** can be immediate and permanent. Loud **noise** exposure can also cause tinnitus—a ringing, buzzing, or roaring in the ears or head.

Symptoms

Aside from damaging the hearing, loud noise exposure and NIHL can lead to:

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Insomnia, even after noise stops
- High blood pressure
- Increased heart rate
- Isolation due to hearing loss
- Depression due to hearing loss



Treatment

Noise-induced hearing loss is, unfortunately, permanent. While researchers sometimes stumble upon potential treatments that could one day restore the function of healthy ears, these solutions are not likely to come soon enough for the millions of Americans who need help now.