

Heart Disease

An estimated 92 million Americans (over 1/3 of the US population) have at least one form of cardiovascular disease¹.

Heart disease, also known as cardiovascular disease (CVD), occurs when blood vessels become narrowed or blocked. CVD can also be the result of damage to the heart's muscle, valves, and/or rhythm. CVD can lead to stroke, heart attack, and chest pain. Currently CVD is the leading cause of death among men and women in the U.S.¹.

Heart Disease and Hearing Loss

The relationship between heart disease and hearing loss has been studied over the years. While there is not a direct causal link between heart disease and hearing loss, there is a large body of evidence suggesting a relationship between the two.

The ear is supplied by several small arteries and requires a sufficient and rich blood flow to maintain proper function. It is believed that CVD can reduce blood flow to the ear and in turn cause damage to different parts of the auditory system². This damage typically results in a sensorineural hearing loss which is permanent and often managed with amplification.

Role of Audiologists

Audiologists identify and diagnose the type and degree of hearing loss and work closely with physicians as an important part of the management team.

Do you think you or a family member may have a hearing loss? Click on the "Find an Audiologist" link at www.audiology.org to locate and set up an appointment with an Audiologist in your area.

References

1. Heart disease and stroke statistics – 2017 update: A report from the American Heart Association. *Circulation* 2017; Jan 25.
2. Hull, R. H., & Kerschen, S. R. (2010). The influence of cardiovascular health on peripheral and central auditory function in adults: A research review. *American Journal of Audiology*, 19, 9-16.