

The basic facts about **tinnitus**



One in six people is affected by tinnitus — yet it's still a mysterious condition. Below, we've answered seven of the most common questions people have about "ringing in the ears."

1

What is tinnitus?

Tinnitus is the medical term for the sensation of hearing sound in your ears or head when no external sound is present. In most cases, tinnitus is a subjective noise, meaning only the person experiencing it can hear it. Typically, people describe the sound as "ringing in the ears," though others describe it as hissing, buzzing, whistling, roaring and even chirping. Tinnitus can be sporadic or constant, with volume ranging from subtle to debilitating.

2

What causes tinnitus?

The most common cause is exposure to loud noise — though head injuries, medications, earwax, and assorted other conditions are also suspected of causing tinnitus.

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How common is tinnitus?

According to the American Tinnitus Association (ATA), over 50 million individuals in the United States experience tinnitus to some degree, or nearly one in six people.



Is there a known cure for tinnitus?

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Currently, there is no known cure for tinnitus: nothing has been shown to actually make the sound stop. However, there are ways to manage tinnitus and provide relief. The ATA recommends that anyone with tinnitus consult with a hearing professional.



Is there a connection between hearing loss and tinnitus?

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While tinnitus does not cause hearing loss, it can—for obvious reasons—impede hearing. And in many cases, tinnitus and hearing loss are diagnosed together, as both can result from noise-induced damage to the ears.

Can hearing aids help with tinnitus?

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Starkey Hearing Technologies hearing aids feature technology that creates a customizable and comforting sound stimulus that you and your hearing professional can fine-tune to soothe the unique, irritating sounds you hear and take your focus off of them.

What should I do if I have tinnitus?

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The first step in managing tinnitus is to schedule an appointment with a hearing professional. You can also take our fast, free tinnitus test on our website and learn more about your tinnitus and possible relief options you can discuss at your appointment.



If you have tinnitus, a consultation with a hearing healthcare professional is recommended.

*Contact us today to schedule your **FREE*** hearing consultation!*