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Hearing impairment and dementia / neurodegenerative diseases

Hearing impairment is a significant condition at any age. It affects children in school, adults in professional and social communication, and even seniors in their social lives—in their engagement in and for society. All affected individuals experience the same difficulty in conducting conversations.

All illnesses that impair thinking and active participation in life represent a similar disability. In old age, those suffering from neurodegenerative diseases such as dementia or Alzheimer's are affected.

The extent to which the two disorders are related has been debated for many years. A common pathophysiological basis has not yet been identified. However, it is known that untreated hearing loss negatively impacts a neurodegenerative disease.

This paper will discuss which care options can be effectively implemented for seniors and at which hearing loss it seems sensible to start with care – including OTC use, hearing aids and cochlear implants.