

# ENT PHYSICIAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON EVALUATING HEARING LOSS FOR WISCONSIN WORKER'S COMPENSATION

OR

FILLING IN THE MISSING PIECES  
OF THE PUZZLE

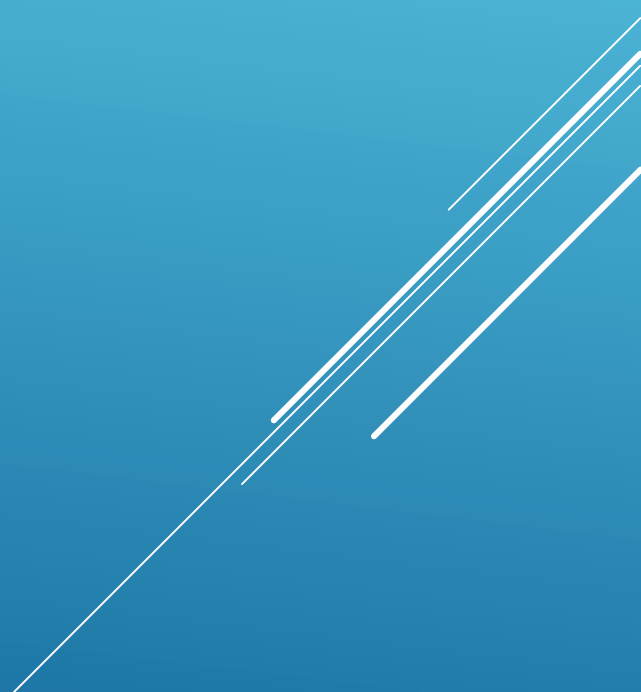
# Common causes of Hearing Impairment


Industrial noise


Non Industrial Noise (socioacusis)

Age Related

Identifiable Ear disease



- ▶ Loud Noise Effects on Health
    - ▶ Increased BP and Blood Sugar
    - ▶ Heart disease
  - ▶ Hearing Loss Associated with increase in MVA
- 
- A series of white lines of varying lengths and orientations are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, creating a modern, abstract graphic element.

- ▶ Determination of Compensation
  - ▶ Based on Old Science
  - ▶ Guidelines and Law Establish for the state
  - ▶ Simplicity, Avoidance of Juries
  - ▶ Recognizable Ear Disease, Medical Issues
  - ▶ Audiometrics of NIHL
  - ▶ Hearing Conservation Program DATA
- 
- A series of three parallel white diagonal lines are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the middle of the right edge towards the bottom left.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS

SENSORINEURAL

HEARING LOSS SIMILAR IN EACH EAR

AUDIOMETRIC KNOTCH , GREATER LOSS AT 3, 4 AND 6000HZ.  
NO FURTHER LOSS

NOT PROFOUND LOSS

NO FURTHER LOSS FROM NOISE AFTER RETIREMENT

Several thin, white, parallel lines of varying lengths and angles are positioned on the right side of the slide, extending from the middle to the bottom right corner.

HE WHO HAS THE DATA DOESN'T  
NEED TO SHOUT

PRE-EMPLOYMENT AUDIOGRAMS

PERIODIC AUDIOGRAMS

EXIT AUDIOGRAM

CONSIDER MEDICAL AUDIOGRAM  
FOR COMPENSABLE LOSS

NO SHOUTING CONTINUED:

NOISE SURVEY

HEARING PROTECTION FOR 85DB, MAYBE LESS

QUALITY HEARING TESTS

SCREENING TESTS ARE SCREENING TESTS

VARIABILITY IN HEARING AID DEALERS VS  
AUDIOLOGISTS

WRAPPING IT UP:

MOST HEARING LOSS IS NOT INDUSTRIAL

“MATERIAL CONTRIBUTORY CAUSE”

HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM THAT IS  
EDUCATIONAL

WHAT THE EMPLOYEE DOES OUTSIDE OF WORK PUTS A  
LOAD ON THEIR ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE



THERE MAY BE OVERALL HEALTH BENEFITS TO LESS NOISE

COST BENEFIT ANALYSES: I HAVE NO IDEA

NOISE + HEARING LOSS NOT A GIVEN, DATA FROM A HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM MAY SUGGEST OTHERWISE.

MEDICAL REVIEW MAY FIND ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATION FOR HEARING LOSS

PROTECTING EMPLOYEES SHOULD LEAD TO PROTECTING YOURSELVES AS EMPLOYERS. COMPENSATION CASES ARE DATA DRIVEN