



Outer Hair Cells (OHCs)

are the vulnerable hair-like structures of the inner ear that are involved with almost everything that can go wrong in the cochlea such as overexposure to sound, ototoxic medication and presbycusis. They are like the 'canaries in a coal mine' for hearing.

Estimated grade of hearing loss

1. Normal

2. Slight/Mild (26-40)

3. Moderate (41-60)

4. Severe/Profound (61-80/>81)

OAE Response

Is 'present' when at least 3 measuring points are above -10 dB and signal-to-noise ratio > 6 dB. In all other cases the OAE response is considered 'absent'.

Cochlear Reserve

A measure of the integrity of the Outer and Inner Hair Cells. A high cochlear reserve means a normal cochlear function (speech intelligibility).

OHC Damage Index

A weighted average of the damage to the 'Outer Hair Cells (OHCs)'.

Test Reliability

Is 'good' if average noise floor over all frequencies is > 0 dB SPL. Is 'bad' if average noise floor over all frequencies is < 0dB SPL.

Additional audiometric evaluation recommended

There is an 80% chance of 40dBHL hearing loss on either ear.

Stay alert!

Prevention is better than cure

Protect your ears when exposed to loud sound

Regularly check the 'proper functioning' of your hearing protectors. Have your hearing checked annually.