

INTRODUCTION TO AUDIOLOGY



What is Audiology?

- It is the study of hearing and hearing disorders.

http://www.caritas.ab.ca/ther_new/audiology/whatis.html

Accessed July 27 at 1.00 pm

- It is the discipline involved in the prevention, identification, and evaluation of hearing disorders, the selection and evaluation of hearing aids, and the habilitation/rehabilitation of individuals with hearing impairment.

http://entallergyhealth.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8&Itemid=11

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Cont. what is audiology?

- The term itself has a Latin root, it comes from the words (*audire*) : to hear and (*ology*): *the study of*.
- It was evolved latter in the second world war and it started to be practiced by the otologists.
- The profession developed rapidly from medical field in the USA, while it was practicing in other countries by physicians (mainly otologists)

□ Who is an audiologist

- "hearing health care professional" who identifies and assesses individuals with auditory (hearing) and/or balance concerns, problems or disorders.
- (Re)habilitation of hearing loss can be administered by an Audiologist through fitting of hearing aids and/or Assistive Listening Devices (ALD's).
- Audiologists can found in hospitals, community health centers, private practice offices, schools, universities and some doctors' offices.

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- Audiologists identify and measure hearing function and rehabilitate patients with hearing impairments.
- Services offered include hearing tests on both adults and children as well as Hearing Aid sales and service.
- All of the audiologists are licensed and experienced in the evaluation and fitting of Hearing Aids, custom hearing protection, and swim molds.

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Audiology specialties

□ Medical audiology

- ✓ Employed in hospitals, clinics and health maintenance organizations
- ✓ Provide diagnostic assessment to identify the location of the hearing disorder within the auditory system
- ✓ They might work within the new-born hearing screening programs or to monitor patients with medications that might affect their hearing
- ✓ Hearing aids dispensing may be one of their scope of practice

Cont. Audiology specialties

□ Educational audiology

- ✓ Audiologist who employed in schools
- ✓ Help to minimize the impact of hearing loss in young age
- ✓ Working in parallel with teacher of deaf and speech-language pathologist

Cont. Audiology specialties

□ Pediatric audiologist

- ✓ who are working with children community
- ✓ Mainly seen in the paediatric hospitals, large rehabilitation centers, and community-based hearing and speech centers

Cont. Audiology specialties

□ Dispensing/ rehabilitative Audiology

- ✓ Audiologists have started to dispense hearing aids to their patients, since then they have become progressively more active on their patients' hearing rehabilitation

Cont. Audiology specialties

□ Industrial audiology

- ✓ Exposing to high level of noise in the industrial field, that permanently damage employees' hearing, urge the presence of audiologists in the industrial field
- ✓ Their main duties:
 - 1) Design programs to measure and identify excessive noise area
 - 2) Consult in the reduction of noise level produced by the equipment.

Cont. Audiology specialties

- 3) Monitor employees' hearing level
- 4) Educate employees on the permanent consequences of excessive noise exposure
- 5) Fit the hearing protections for employees with excessive noise exposure
- ✓ They work in conjunction with attorneys, industrial physicians and nurses, industrial hygienists, safety engineers, industrial relations and personal officers

Otosscopes



Tuning Forks



Audiometer



ME analyzer



Oto-acoustic Emissions



ABR



Hearing Aids



ENG, VNG & balance test

