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](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.
  
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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

- **Pediateric audiologist**
  - who are working with children community
  - Mainly seen in the paediatric hospitals, large rehabilitation centers, and community-based hearing and speech centers
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.
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
Otoscopes
Tuning Forks
Audiometer
ME analyzer
Oto-acoustic Emissions
ABR
Hearing Aids
ENG, VNG & balance test