

## Counseling tips

- Before taking any medicine, ask your doctor the side effects of the prescribed medicines and what you should look for.
- Consult an Audiologist for test prior to taking any ototoxic medication.
- If tinnitus or ringing sensation in the ear, immediately consult an Audiologist for detailed evaluation and management.
- Get your hearing checked by an audiologist periodically, preferably every three months.

## Some of the drugs that may cause that may cause ototoxicity

Drug class	Examples
Loop diuretics	Furosmide, bumetanide, ethacrynic acid.
Antibiotics	Aminoglycosides- gentamycin, tobramycin, neomycin Glycopeptides- vancomycin
NSAIDs	Aspirin (high doses), ibuprofen and naproxen
Platinum agents	Cisplatin, carboplatin
Environmental chemicals and other substances	Lead, mercury, carbon monoxide, arsenic, carbon disulfide, tin, hexane, toluene, alcohol

## For further details and information, contact



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Working days: Monday to Friday (9am to 5.30pm)  
(Except for Central Government Holidays)

# Ototoxicity

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## What is ototoxicity?

Damage caused to the inner ear and auditory nerve due to intake of medication or drugs which may affect both hearing and balance mechanism is known as Ototoxicity.

Some medications prescribed to kidney problems, Vestibular problems, Brain tumors, heart diseases, cancer etc are ototoxic.

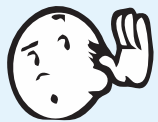
## What are the risk factors?

Risk factors depends on

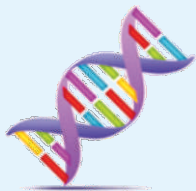
- Type of medicine taken.



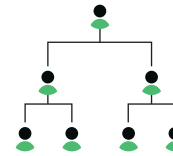
- Dosage of the medicine.
- Duration of intake of medicine.
- Side effects of the medicine.
- Pre-existing Hearing Loss



- Concurrent administration of another ototoxic drug (e.g. aminoglycosides and loop diuretics)
- Genetic conditions



- Family history of ototoxicity



## Symptoms of ototoxicity

The symptoms of ototoxicity can come on suddenly or show up over time.

- Hearing loss in both ears.



- Difficulty in understanding speech.
- Tinnitus or ringing sensation in the ears
- Giddiness or vertigo



- Balancing problem
- Vision problems

## Treatment of ototoxicity

- Early recognition and discontinuation of ototoxic drugs.
- Change of medicine. If medicine cannot be changed, ask doctor to reduce the dosage of the medicine
- Hearing aids can be used if there is any hearing loss.
- Vestibular rehabilitation exercises if there is any balancing problem or vertigo