

Glossary

ABR (Auditory Brainstem Response) A non-invasive test of the inner ear and auditory brain pathways

APGAR A rapid standardized assessment of newborn health immediately after birth

Audiogram A visual graph used to display the results of a hearing test

Audiologist A medical professional who assesses and treats hearing and balance disorders

Audiometric evaluation A comprehensive hearing test

Audiometry See Audiometric evaluation

Auditory evoked potential testing (AEP) A non-invasive measure of the brain's electrical response to sound

Auditory nerve (cranial nerve VIII; CN8) Transmits auditory and vestibular information from the inner ear to the brain

Auditory rehabilitation Therapy to help people with hearing loss maximize their listening and language skills that may include the family centered implementation of communication strategies, auditory techniques, audiologic management skills, and advocacy.

AVT (auditory-verbal therapy) A family-centered early intervention approach to teaching children with hearing loss to listen and talk through audition alone

Babbling An early stage of child speech and language development in which the child produces repeated nonsense syllables (eg. bababa)

BERA (Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry) A non-invasive test of the inner ear and auditory brain pathways

Bilateral hearing loss Hearing loss in both ears

Cerebral palsy A permanent neurological disorder affecting movement, balance, and posture

Cochlear implant (CI) An electronic device implanted to bypass a damaged inner ear and provide sound perception to the listener

Deaf culture A distinct culture built around the use of sign language, history, and common values

Decibel A logarithmic unit of measure to represent perceived volume

Down syndrome A genetic condition causing developmental delays, intellectual disabilities, and distinct physical traits

Eardrum (tympanic membrane) A thin cone-shaped tissue that transmits soundwaves from the outer and middle ear

EHDI (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention) A public health program to identify and treat children with hearing loss

Encephalopathy Damage to the brain causing disfunction

ENT (ear, nose, and throat) A medical and surgical doctor who treats head and neck disorders

FM system An assistive listening device designed to help the listener access speech in noise and at a distance

Hearing aids An electronic device worn on the outer ear to amplify sound

Hearing screening A quick non-invasive assessment of hearing to determine if a full evaluation is necessary

Hepatoblastoma Pediatric liver cancer

Hypotonia Low muscle tone

Language therapy Therapy to help people with language delays and disorders improve their language and communication skills

LMIC (Low- and middle-income country) An economic classification used by the World Bank based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita

Mapping The process of programing cochlear implant software to the user's unique hearing needs

Mastoid The bone at the base of the skull behind the outer ear

Meningitis An infection causing swelling of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord

Meningoencephalitis An inflammation of the brain

Microcephaly The infant's head is small than expect for their age and sex

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) A diagnostic assessment using magnetic fields and radio waves to create cross-sectional images of organs, tissues, and bones.

Necrotizing enterocolitis Inflammation of the intestines

Neonatal screening A public health program designed to detect genetic disorders shortly after birth

Neurologist A doctor who assesses and treats disorders of the nervous system

NICU Neonatal intensive care unit

OAE (otoacoustic emissions) A quick test of measuring the health of the inner ear often used for newborn hearing screenings

OT (occupational therapist) A medical professional who assesses and treats physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges to daily activities

Otitis media An infection of the middle ear

Otolaryngologist See ENT

Otologist (See ENT) A doctor specialized in ear care

Ototoxic medications (amikacin, gentamicin, cisplatin) Prescribed medications that can cause hearing loss and balance issues as a side effect

Phonological awareness The ability to recognize and manipulate speech sounds

Physical therapist A medical rehabilitation professional who assesses and treats movement disorders

Physiotherapy See Physical therapist

Profound hearing loss Hearing thresholds higher than 91db

Psychologist A medical professional who assesses and treats mental health conditions

Sensorineural hearing loss A hearing loss caused by damage to the inner ear or auditory nerve

Severe hearing loss Hearing thresholds between 71 and 90dB

SLP (speech-language pathologist) A medical professional who assesses and treats communication and swallowing disorders

Speech and language therapist See SLP

Speech language therapist See SLP

Speech therapist See SLP

Teacher of the deaf An educator specialized in supporting children with hearing loss

Torticollis The baby's neck muscles tighten, tilting the head at an awkward angle

Type 1 cochlear hypoplasia A malformation of the cochlea (inner ear)

Unilateral hearing loss Hearing loss in one ear

Ventilation tubes (pressure equalizing (PE) tubes) Small tubes placed in the eardrum by and ENT to drain middle ear fluid build-up.