

## TINNITUS

Not a disease, but a symptom of other underlying health conditions, including reaction in the brain to damage in the ear and auditory system.

## OTOTOXICITY

Over 100 classes of drugs commonly used in the U.S. to treat pain, infections and disease can damage the inner ear.

## RISK OF FALLS

Hearing loss can cause diminished spatial awareness or reduced attention capacity – which can increase the risk of falls.

## DIABETES

Hearing loss occurs almost twice as often in adults who have diabetes than in those who don't, likely due to inner ear changes caused by high blood sugar.

## DEMENTIA

For those 60 years and older, the severity of untreated hearing loss is closely related to the risk of dementia, perhaps due to shared brain pathways.

## COGNITIVE DECLINE

Hearing loss may be associated with changed brain structure and reduced brain volume.

## VISION LOSS

Decreased sensory awareness from vision and hearing loss makes daily living activities more difficult and may put personal safety at risk.

## HEART DISEASE

Low-frequency hearing loss and heart disease may be related, due to the inner ear's sensitivity to blood flow.

