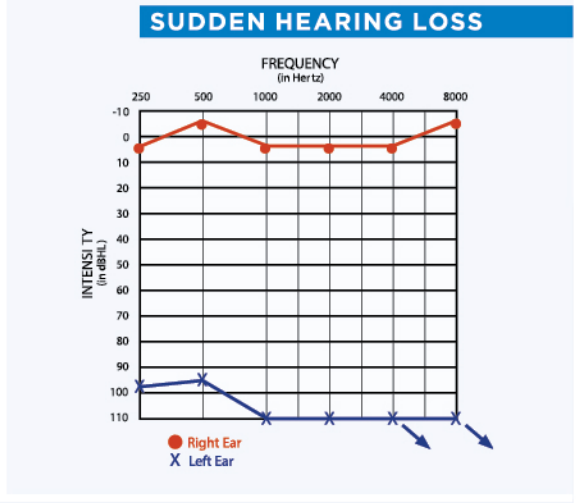
Hear the **FACTS** about **SUDDEN HEARING LOSS**

Diagnosis and Treatment

What is Sudden Hearing Loss?

- A rapid hearing loss, typically in one ear, occurring over a period of 72 hours or less
- A medical emergency which requires immediate diagnosis and treatment
- Associated symptoms *may* include tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and/or dizziness (vertigo)



What causes Sudden Hearing Loss?

- Infectious diseases such as mumps, measles or chickenpox
- Circulatory and inner ear problems such as Meniere's Disease
- Trauma, such as a head injury which disrupts cochlear blood flow
- Acoustic neuroma (noncancerous tumor) of the acoustic nerve

Symptoms:

- A hearing test which measures a loss of at least 30 dB
- Inability to hear when using the "deafened" ear in a telephone call or conversation
- Noticing a loud "pop" or explosive sound just before severe hearing loss occurs

Diagnosis:

- Talk honestly with your Audiologist about sudden changes in your ability to hear
- Allow your Audiologist to professionally evaluate the type and severity of your hearing loss
- Allow your Audiologist to evaluate the function of your inner ear
- Coordinate with Physician to order an MRI to rule out acoustic neuroma

How can your Audiologist and Physician Team improve YOUR quality of life?

Prescribing steroids and/ or antiviral medications



Watchful waiting



Rehabilitation, potentially including hearing assistance devices





Sound Advice
Hearing Aid Center

©2014 HEALTHSCAPES™