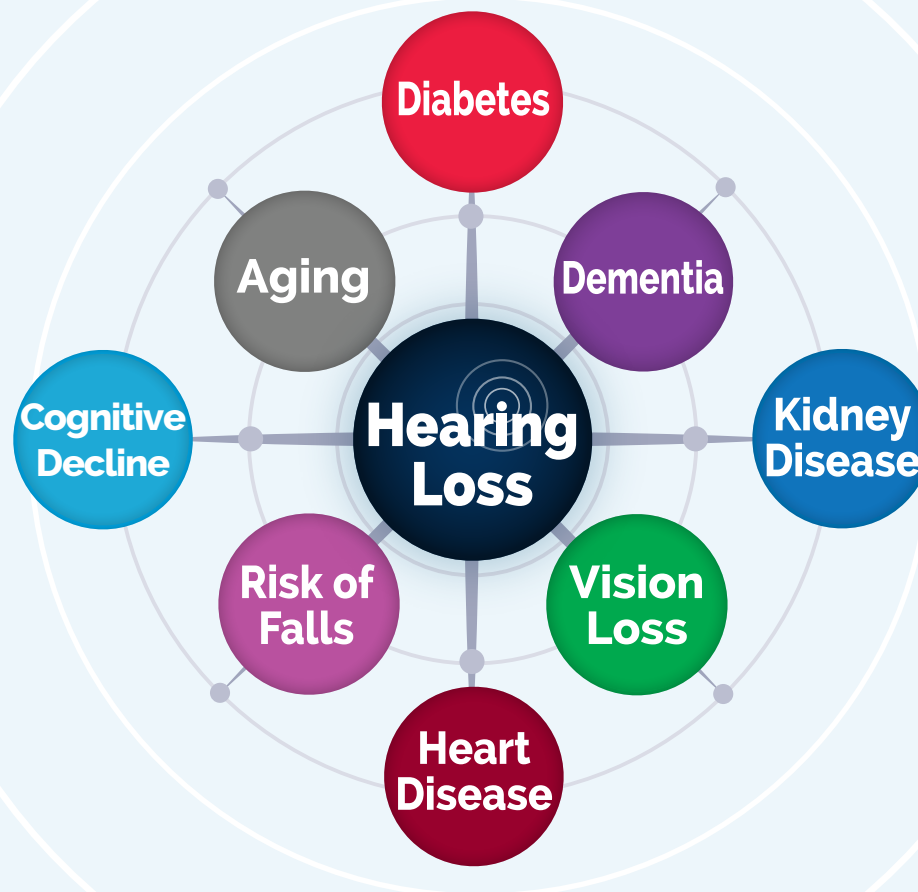


**AGING**  
Age-related hearing loss affects more men than women and, while permanent, is treatable with hearing devices.

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

**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.



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

**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.

**KIDNEY DISEASE**  
An estimated 54% of American adults with chronic kidney disease have hearing loss, possibly caused by toxins related to kidney failure.

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