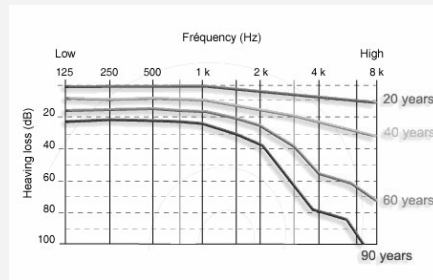## Hearing Frequency Range by Age Group

Introduction

■Presbycusis is the third most common chronic condition in older Americans. Currently guideliness call for periodic screening of older patients for hearing impairments.

■Audioscope examination, otoscopic examination, and Whispered Voice test are recommended. See cheatsheet.

■Questionnaires such as the screening version of the Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly accurately identify persons with hearing impairment.

■Patients' medications should be reviewed for potentially ototoxic drugs.

■Patients with chronic otitis media or sudden hearing loss, or who fail any screening tests should be referred to an otolaryngologist.

■Hearing aids are the treatment of choice for older persons with hearing impairment, because they minimize hearing loss and improve daily functioning.

Assessment

Question (Points: Yes=4, Sometimes=2, No=0)	Points
Does a hearing problem cause you to feel embarrassed when you meet new people?	[__]
Does a hearing problem cause you to feel frustrated when talking to members of your family?	[__]
Do you have difficulty hearing when someone speaks in a whisper?	[__]
Do you feel impaired by a hearing problem?	[__]
Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when visiting friends, relatives, or neighbors?	[__]
Does a hearing problem cause you to attend religious services less often than you would like?	[__]
Does a hearing problem cause you to have arguments with family members?	[__]
Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when listening to the television or radio?	[__]
Do you feel that any difficulty with your hearing limits or hampers your personal or social life?	[__]
Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when in a restaurant with relatives or friends?	[__]
Sum the points assigned to each of the items - total score	[__]

A raw score:

0 to 8 = 13 percent probability of hearing impairment (no handicap/no Referral);

0 to 24 = 50 percent probability of hearing impairment (mild to moderate handicap/referral);

26 to 40 = 84 percent probability of hearing impairment (severe handicap/referral).

Adapted from Ventry IM, Weinstein BE. Identification of elderly people with hearing problems. ASHA. 1983;25(7):42.