

# • OTOTOXICITY

Health issues leading to hearing loss

THERE ARE MORE THAN **200 MEDICATIONS** ON THE MARKET TODAY THAT ARE KNOWN TO CAUSE HEARING LOSS (**TOXIC TO THE EARS**).

The list of known ototoxic drugs includes:

- Aspirin
- Quinine
- Water pills
- Certain antibiotics
- Some anticancer drugs
- Some anesthetics
- Environmental chemicals like carbon monoxide, hexane and mercury

## OTOTOXICITY CAN LEAD TO HEARING LOSS

Many common medications can harm the inner, outer, or middle ear. Hearing problems resulting from this medication can be temporary, permanent, curable or incurable. Though this ototoxicity is typically bilateral—in both ears, damage to hearing can happen unilaterally or in one ear. Knowing what medications cause hearing loss and how to avoid them, can go a long way in keeping your hearing health..

## EARLY PREVENTION NEEDED

Monitoring and increased awareness are two of the best weapons in fighting damage to hearing caused by medications. Patients need to be aware of what types of medications cause ototoxic hearing loss, but also that combining medications, higher doses, and longer treatment times are more likely to cause hearing problems. It is important to spread the word about this condition, making people aware of the steps they can take, including getting an annual evaluation by a Hearing Healthcare Professional, to help prevent hearing loss.

## SYMPTOMS OF HEARING LOSS

Hearing loss can be so gradual that a person may not notice it. Children and adults can experience hearing loss at any time. Ask the following questions to assess any risk for hearing loss:

- Have your friends or family members complained that you're not listening?  Yes  No
- Do you frequently ask people to repeat themselves?  Yes  No
- Do you complain that people are always mumbling?  Yes  No
- Do you have problems following conversations with more than two people?  Yes  No
- Have people complained that you listen to the television or radio too loudly?  Yes  No
- Do you have trouble understanding conversations in crowded rooms or loud or busy restaurants?  Yes  No

If your patient answers yes to more than one of those questions, they should have their hearing tested immediately to assess the existing loss and prevent further damage.

HEARING TEST / SCREENING SHOULD BE PERFORMED AT

# 50+

OF AGE OR EARLIER

IF THE PATIENT SUFFERS FROM A RELATED HEALTH CONCERN



REFER YOUR PATIENTS FOR A HEARING TEST TODAY!



HOMETOWN HEARING CENTRE

