



# The Value of Audiology: Hearing Loss and Cognitive Decline/Dementia

## Using Amplification to Treat Hearing Loss Reduces the Known Risk of Cognitive Decline/Dementia and Improves Quality of Life.



Hearing loss (HL) has been identified as a risk factor for dementia and/or cognitive impairment.

- Approximately **30%** of dementia cases among individuals with HL can be attributed to their HL. <sup>1</sup>
- Compared to those with typical hearing, individuals with HL are **1.9 times** more likely to develop dementia and **2.78 times** more likely to have co-occurring cognitive impairment. <sup>2,3</sup>
- Individuals are **1.89 times** more likely to develop dementia with mild HL, **3 times** more likely with moderate HL, and **4.49 times** more likely with severe HL compared to those with typical hearing. <sup>4</sup>
- Individuals with age-related HL are **2 times** more likely to have co-occurring cognitive impairment and **2.42 times** more likely to develop dementia. <sup>5</sup>



Treating hearing loss with amplification reduces the likelihood of developing dementia and improves cognitive function.

- When using amplification, individuals with HL show **no increased risk** of dementia compared to individuals with typical hearing. <sup>1,6</sup>
- By treating hearing loss, the prevalence of dementia would be reduced by **8.2%**. <sup>2</sup>
- Global cognitive function scores increased **4.8%** to **6.4%** among amplification users. <sup>7,8</sup>
- Individuals using amplification also demonstrated improvements in short-term memory (**12.5%-20.7%**), attention (**16.4%**), and long term/episodic memory (**1.5 times**) abilities. <sup>7,9,10</sup>
- After cochlear implantation, **81%** of adults showed improvements in cognitive performance and **32%** of those with mild cognitive impairment returned to typical cognitive function. <sup>9,10</sup>
- Among older adults at increased risk for cognitive decline, the use of hearing aids reduced cognitive decline by **48% over three years**. <sup>11</sup>

## Additional benefits of amplification



## References

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