# What is your hearing loss?

### Is your hearing loss

# Unilateral:

Hearing is normal in one ear and impaired in the other ear.

or

# Bilateral:

Hearing is impaired in both ears. Can be symmetrical or asymmetrical.



## What <u>TYPE</u> of hearing loss do you have?

# Sensorineural:

Hearing loss occurs because of damage of a nerve, the inner ear, or central processing centers of the brain.

# Conductive:

Hearing loss is caused when there is a problem sending sound waves along the route through the outer ear, eardrum, or middle ear.

## Mixed:

A combination of conductive+sensorineural hearing loss. There is damage in both the outer/middle ear and in the inner ear.

#### What <u>DEGREE</u> of hearing loss do you have?

Normal: - 10 to 20 decibels

<u>Mild</u>: 20- 40 decibels. Soft sounds can NOT be heard (whisper, bird chirping, wind)

Moderate: 40-60 decibels. Sounds can NOT be heard until they become fairly loud (conversation, speech)

<u>Severe</u>: 60-80 decibels. Only very loud sounds can be heard (vacuum, dog bark, piano)

<u>**Profound:**</u> 80+ decibels. Only extremely loud sounds can be heard (airplane, rock band, semi truck) or no sound is heard.



#### Tell me about your audiogram

<u>Audiologist</u>: person that tests your hearing

<u>Audiogram</u>: chart/graph of your hearing loss. A "picture of how you hear

X: left ear, blue

<u>O:</u> right ear, red

[ ], < >: indicates results from bone conduction test

<u>Frequency</u>: measured in Hertz (Hz). How high low pitched a sound is Decibel: (dB) how loud or soft a sound is



#### How is your hearing tested?

<u>Audiometer</u>: machine used to test your hearing

Earphones: go over your ears to test your hearing in each ear.

<u>Bone vibrator</u>: goes behind your ear to test the hearing in your inner ear.

<u>Tympanometry</u>: measures the health of your middle ear

<u>Speech Reception Threshold</u>: Faintest sound level at which a listener can identify simple words

<u>Speech Detection Threshold</u>: Faintest sound level at which a listener can hear the sound of speech

<u>Speech Discrimination</u>: How well you understand speech when it is loud enough.



#### Where should you sit?







#### Hearing Aids



#### Bone Conduction Hearing Implant

A bone-anchored hearing aid (BAHA) or bone-anchored hearing device, is a hearing aid based on bone conduction.









#### Cochlear Implant



Cochlear Implant: an electronic medical device that does the work of damaged parts of the inner ear (cochlea) to provide sound signals to the brain.



