



Adelaide
HEARING

DEMENTIA & HEARING LOSS

The 2020 and 2024 Lancet Commissions on dementia identified mid-life hearing loss as the largest modifiable risk factor for dementia, potentially contributing to ~8% of cases. Untreated hearing loss accelerates cognitive decline, increases social isolation, and elevates dementia risk by up to 5 times.

Early identification and effective management with hearing aids has been shown to significantly slow cognitive decline and reduce risk of depression, and improve quality of life.



WHEN TO REFER

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- Patients ≥55 years with any reported hearing difficulty
- Family concerns about hearing or early memory issues
- Patients with diagnosed mild cognitive impairment or early dementia
- When noticing increased TV volume, frequent repetition requests, or withdrawal from conversation

