

Wichita Ear Clinic Newsletter

Pediatric
Hearing
Loss



Fortunately, hearing loss is typically diagnosed at an early age in Kansas. The state newborn hearing screening program and pediatric audiograms help identify those children at risk of hearing loss and its potential consequences. Delayed speech and language acquisition, poor communication skills, and education delays may occur without optimal treatment. Hearing loss can occur anywhere within the auditory pathway, and identifying the anatomical location, type, and severity of the hearing loss will help determine the optimal treatment plan.

If a pediatric patient has hearing loss, the goal is to do everything you can to ensure that it doesn't hold them back from achieving speech, language and educational milestones. Some infants and children may have treatable medical problems, while others may need ventilation tubes, tympanoplasty, or middle ear surgery. Others may need cochlear implants or an implantable bone conduction device. However, many children will need some sort of amplification. Studies have shown that one of the best ways to help is by early intervention with hearing aids.¹

A recent study from the University of Iowa showed that hearing aids helped children with hearing loss learn language and speech better than children with untreated hearing loss. Researchers looked at 180 children between the ages of six months to seven years who were experiencing mild to severe hearing loss. They found that children who used properly fitted hearing aids had better rates of language development than children with untreated hearing loss.

This study highlights the importance of quick intervention when it comes to treating a child's hearing loss. The longer treatment is delayed, the more at a disadvantage the child will be. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association highlights four ways that hearing loss can affect children.² These include:

- Delays in speech and language skills
- Learning problems in school
- Lower self-esteem
- Isolation from others

If left untreated, the gap between children with hearing loss and those without will only increase, and these issues can become more pronounced. If you suspect a child does not hear well, we recommend a medical and audiometric evaluation.

At Wichita Ear Clinic, we want every child with hearing loss to have the same opportunities as their hearing peers. We believe it is important to have a proactive hearing health strategy. Whether treatment is medical, surgical, a hearing aid or a cochlear implant, we will implement the treatment plan. Our speech pathologist can also provide any necessary speech therapy. Our team will communicate with the family, school, and referring providers to maximize the treatment outcome.

Our expert hearing health care team will work to ensure that your patients are given the best tools to succeed. Contact us at 316-686-6608 to schedule a referral or if you have any questions.

John M. Lasak, M.D.

¹ University of Iowa. (2015, November 18). Helping children hear better. Iowa Now. <https://now.uiowa.edu/2015/10/helping-children-hear-better>.

² American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Effects of hearing loss on development. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. <https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/effects-of-hearing-loss-on-development/>.



WICHITA EAR CLINIC

WE ARE “HEAR” FOR YOU!



Wichita Ear Clinic provides state-of-the-art medical and surgical treatments for diseases of the ear and cranial base. Our physicians, Thomas C. Kryzer, M.D., and John M. Lasak, M.D., are fellowship-trained otologists, neurotologists and cranialbase surgeons. Our clinic treats all types of hearing loss, vestibular and balance disorders, ear infections and cholesteatomas, tinnitus, facial nerve disorders, acoustic neuromas, and tumors of the ear and cranial base. Our audiologists provide state-of-the-art hearing aid services and can fit the up-to-date technologies. Our physicians specialize in both pediatric and adult cochlear implantation, with implant mapping and programming accomplished on-site. Lindsay Scott, APRN whose emphasis includes the medical treatment of otological and vestibular disorders, has been a wonderful addition at our clinic and is also seeing new patients.

Our Providers:



John M. Lasak, M.D.



Thomas C. Kryzer, M.D.



Lindsay Scott, MSN, ARNP, BC



Sarah J. Hall, M.A., CCC-SLP

Audiologists:



Carmen Schulte, M.A., CCC-A



Melanie Rhorer, Au.D., CCC-A



Bailee Fields, Au.D., CCC-A



Ashley Schauner, Au.D.