

## Chemotherapy Drugs

Your provider has determined that chemotherapy is necessary for the treatment of your cancer. There are different chemotherapy drugs, but they all have the same purpose: **to stop or slow the growth of your cancer.**

Some chemotherapy drugs may also damage your ears. This is called ototoxicity. Signs of ototoxicity can include hearing loss, tinnitus or balance problems.

An audiologist can help manage your hearing and balance health. They may assess your hearing and falls risk **before, during, and after treatment** to catch and address ototoxicity early.

Chemotherapy drugs that might impact hearing include:

- **Cisplatin**
- **Carboplatin**
- **Oxaliplatin**

## Information & Resources

### Schedule a VA Appointment

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/schedule-view-va-appointments/>

### Fact Sheet for VA Audiology

<https://www.ncrar.research.va.gov/Documents/Audiology-FactSheet.pdf>

### Patient Experiences

<https://www.ncrar.research.va.gov/PatientVoices/Index.asp>

**Scan for more resources on Hearing Loss, Tinnitus and Dizziness**



National Center for  
Rehabilitative  
Auditory Research (NCRAR)  
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[www.ncrar.research.va.gov](http://www.ncrar.research.va.gov)

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## Your Hearing & Chemotherapy



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## The Role of an Audiologist

Speak with your oncologist before starting treatment about how best to use audiology services as part of your treatment plan. An audiologist is a hearing health professional; they have the tools, technology and training to help you manage your hearing loss, tinnitus and balance problems.

Audiologists can identify any hearing and balance problems you may have even before starting your cancer treatment.

They can also monitor for ototoxicity-related changes during treatment, and work with you and your oncologist on how to address them.



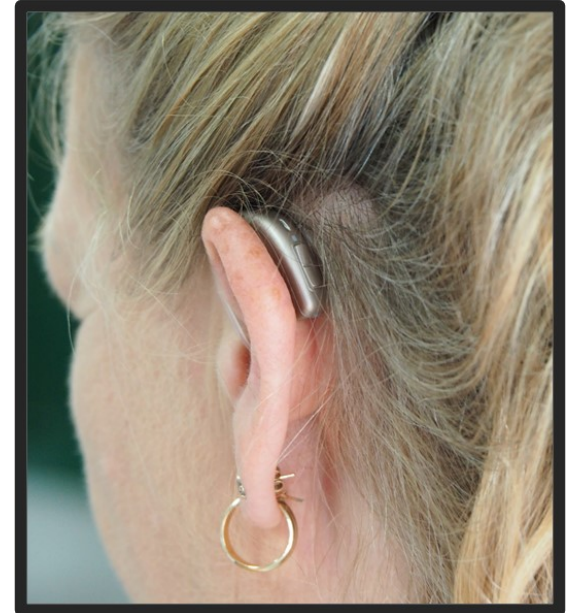
## During Treatment

***Let your provider know if you notice any of the following:***

- New or increasing difficulty hearing
- Trouble hearing in noise or understanding speech
- Ringing, buzzing, and/or hissing lasting longer than 5 minutes
- New or worsening sensations of spinning, imbalance, blurred or "bouncy" vision

## After Treatment

**Continue monitoring for and address ototoxicity symptoms 3 months and one year after cancer treatment, or sooner if you notice any changes.**



## Protect Your Hearing

Your ears will be more sensitive to damage from loud noise during treatment.

**It's important to avoid loud noise while receiving treatment and wear quality hearing protection.**

Examples of activities that could expose you to damaging noise levels include: shooting sports, concerts, operating loud appliances or power tools, and sporting events.