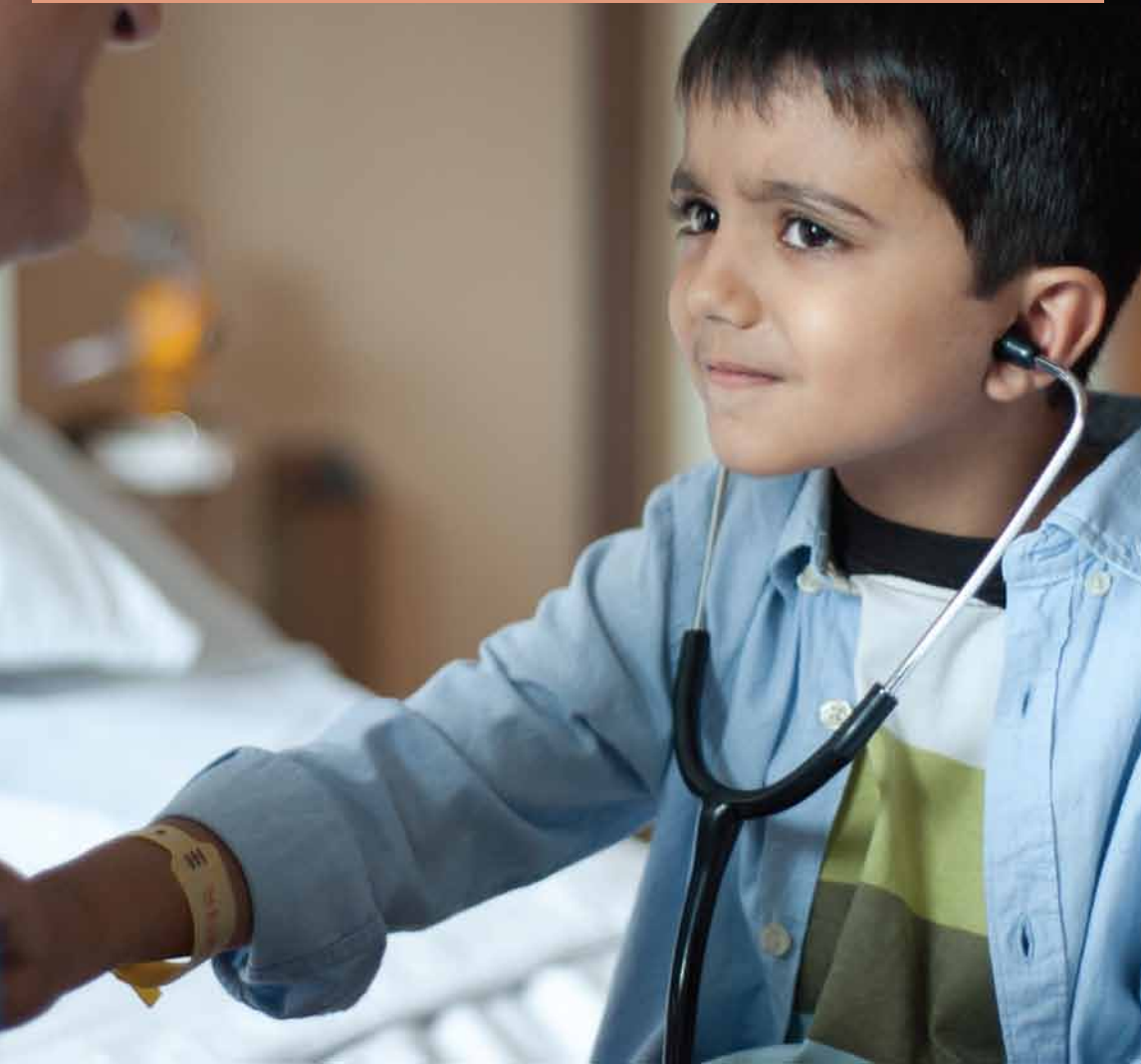




AUDIOMETRY & SPEECH THERAPY

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY AND FOLLOW WHAT YOU HEAR



Audiometry and speech therapy can make **life easier**

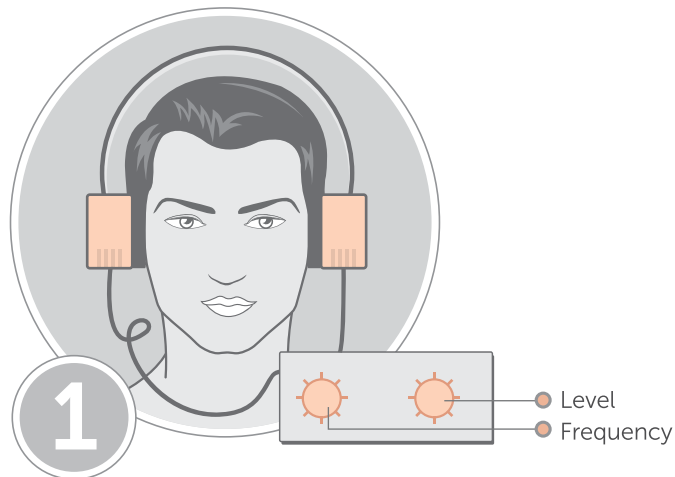
The ability to communicate is a function we take for granted, until we lose it. Not being able to hear or voice oneself can be frustrating, lead to further handicaps, and pose a host of social and emotional issues. Depending on the cause, degree and extent of the impairment, these conditions could be treated or worked around. Defining the condition is the starting point of any treatment.

The difference between impairment, disability and handicap

While these terms are used loosely, there is an actual distinction where:

- Impairment is the limitation of one or more basic components of the auditory system (the eye, auditory nerve or auditory centre in the brain)
- Disability is the lack, loss or reduction of the ability to perform certain tasks such as listening, using the telephone and communicating
- Handicap comprises resulting disadvantages in social and environmental areas like education, employment, leisure and recreation

Hearing Test



A CASE OF HEARING

Hearing impairment ranges from mild (where one may not even realise the inability to hear certain sounds), to moderate, severe,

or profound (where one may only hear low toned sounds at a much higher volume or decibel level).

A hearing impairment is as varied as it is complex because each individual experiences and copes with their disability in their unique way. Since we can't 'see' a hearing impairment, it is often not recognised. A lack of understanding could bring on feelings of isolation and frustration.

The department of Audiometry at Hinduja Healthcare Surgical has a simple hearing test to measure one's hearing ability and help identify a hearing loss, for both children and adults who:

- Face a difficulty in hearing small, soft or loud sounds
- Have a difficulty in understanding someone's speech especially amidst noise
- Have a habit of frequently asking for a repetition
- Miss certain words or sounds in a conversation
- Get pain in, or discharge from the ear
- Experience giddiness, dizziness or vertigo
- Sense whistling sounds in the ear or tinnitus
- Are excessively exposed to noisy environments
- Are exposed to ototoxic drugs
- Have hereditary hearing loss
- Are Diabetic



THE POWER OF SPEECH

Being able to speak is as important as hearing. In fact, these impairments are often even connected as people who have severe hearing impairments also face speech impairments. We live in a world of sound and the absence of it affects the way we communicate overall.

Speech impairments also come in various forms and vary in condition. It could seem like a simple lisp or stutter when one is young.



COMMON SPEECH DISORDERS

Stuttering interferes with fluent speech, where a person repeats the first part of a word or holds a single sound for a long time.

Cluttering is more of a language disorder but it also makes speech difficult to understand.

Articulation disorders can range from substituting a 'w' for an 'r', omitting sounds ('cool' for 'school'), or adding sounds to words.

Lisping is specific substitution involving the letters 's' and 'z' with 'th'.

Apraxia (Dyspraxia) or oral-motor speech disorder, is a problem with motor coordination or motor planning. It poses a difficulty moving the muscles and structures necessary to form speech sounds into words.

Only people with speech problems know how frustrating it can be and overcoming it may take years. A speech therapist can help you deal with the disability and build confidence.

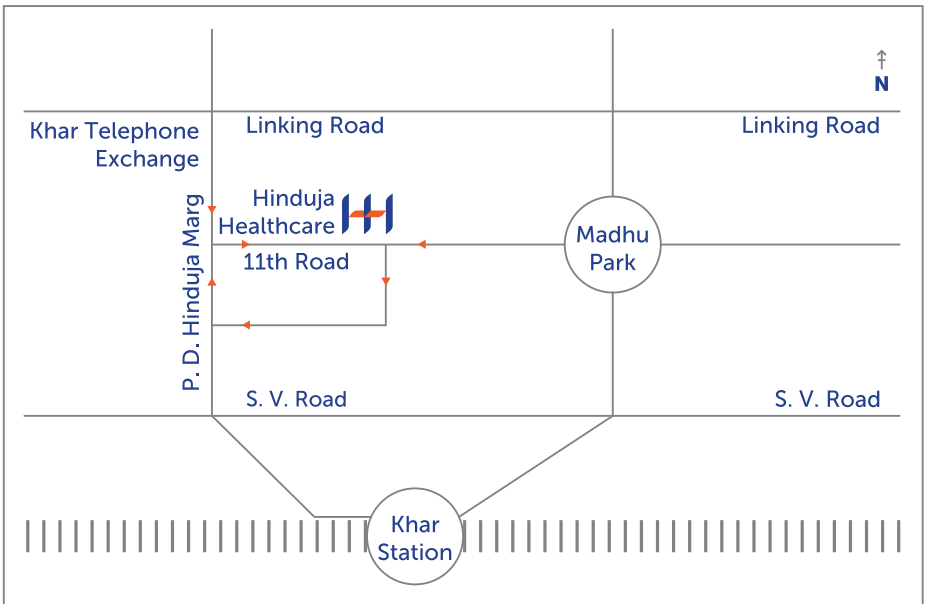
At Hinduja Healthcare Surgical, we provide speech as well as language therapy to help with the above disorders. With a little help, willpower and practice, you can improve, and even correct this impairment.

Our specialised unit offers therapy for:

- Children who do not speak or have an inadequate amount of speech or language
- Children with autism, cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, down syndrome, etc
- Inattentive or hyperactive children
- People with difficulties in pronouncing words or those who mispronounce words
- People who stammer or stutter
- Those with a voice problem

- Patients who have had a paralytic stroke and lost language skills
- Patients who face difficulty in swallowing food
- Patients with cancer of the mouth and throat
- Parkinson's disease or dementia patients

If you have or know someone who needs hearing or speech therapy, do refer him or her to our department and help them communicate with confidence.



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