

# 10 CAUSES OF HEARING LOSS



LynneLim  
Ear Nose Throat  
& Hearing Centre  
(Child & Adult)



## 1. Age-related

Leading cause worldwide. Largely due to sound sensory cells in the inner ear degenerating with age.



## 2.

### Noise-related

2nd leading cause worldwide. 1 in 6 teens affected. Hazard in some occupations if proper ear protection not used.



## 3.

### Infection

Virus, bacteria or fungal infections in the outer, middle or inner ear can happen spontaneously or due ear picking, swim or body infection.



## 4.

### Congenital/ Genetic

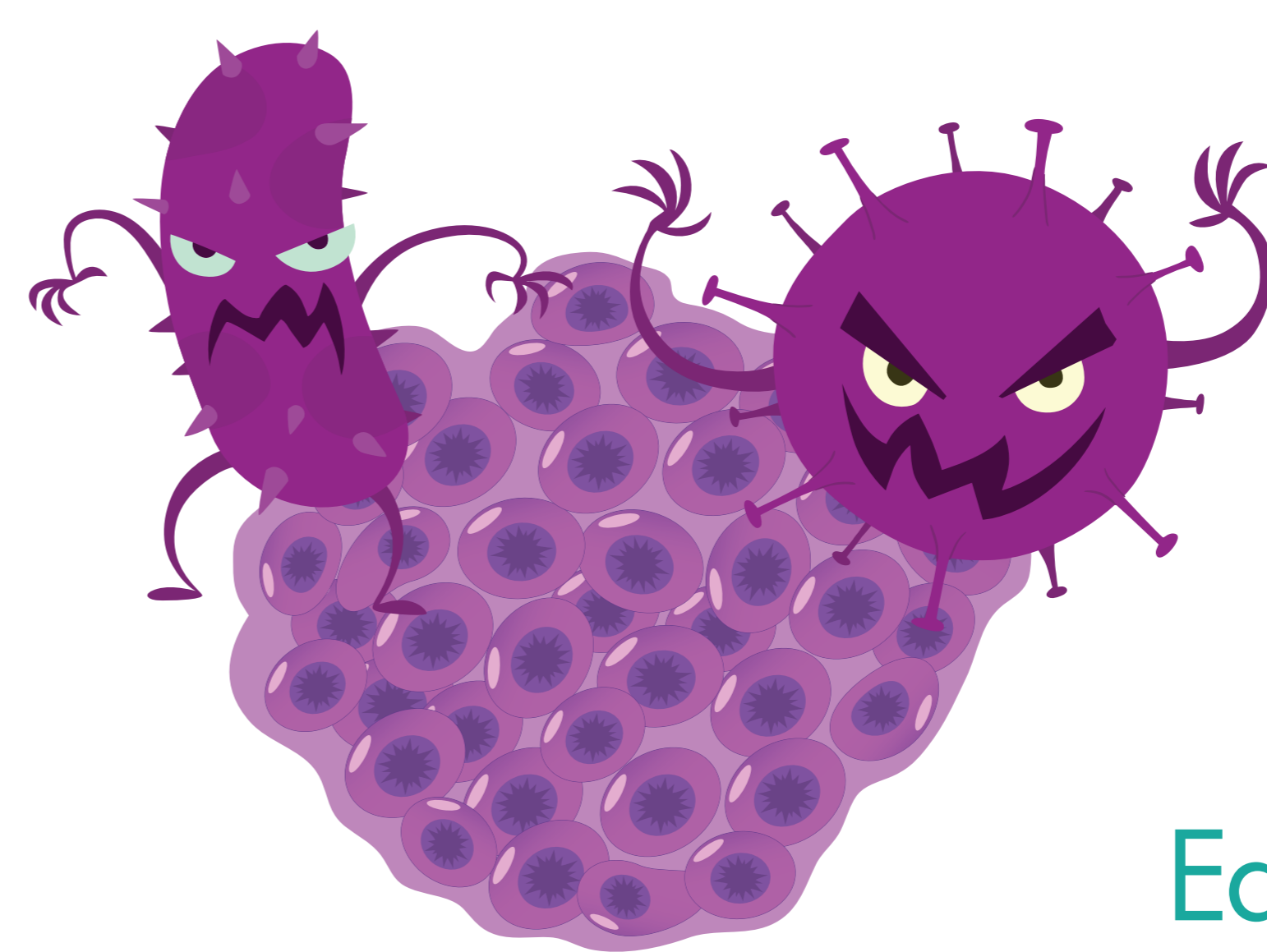
4 in 1000 new-borns in Singapore. Maternal infections in pregnancy (eg Cytomegalovirus, Toxoplasmosis, Herpes). Genetic mutations (from either parent or spontaneously).



## 5.

### Trauma/ Drug

Direct or blast head or ear injuries. Ear toxic drugs (eg some intravenous antibiotic or chemotherapy).



## 6.

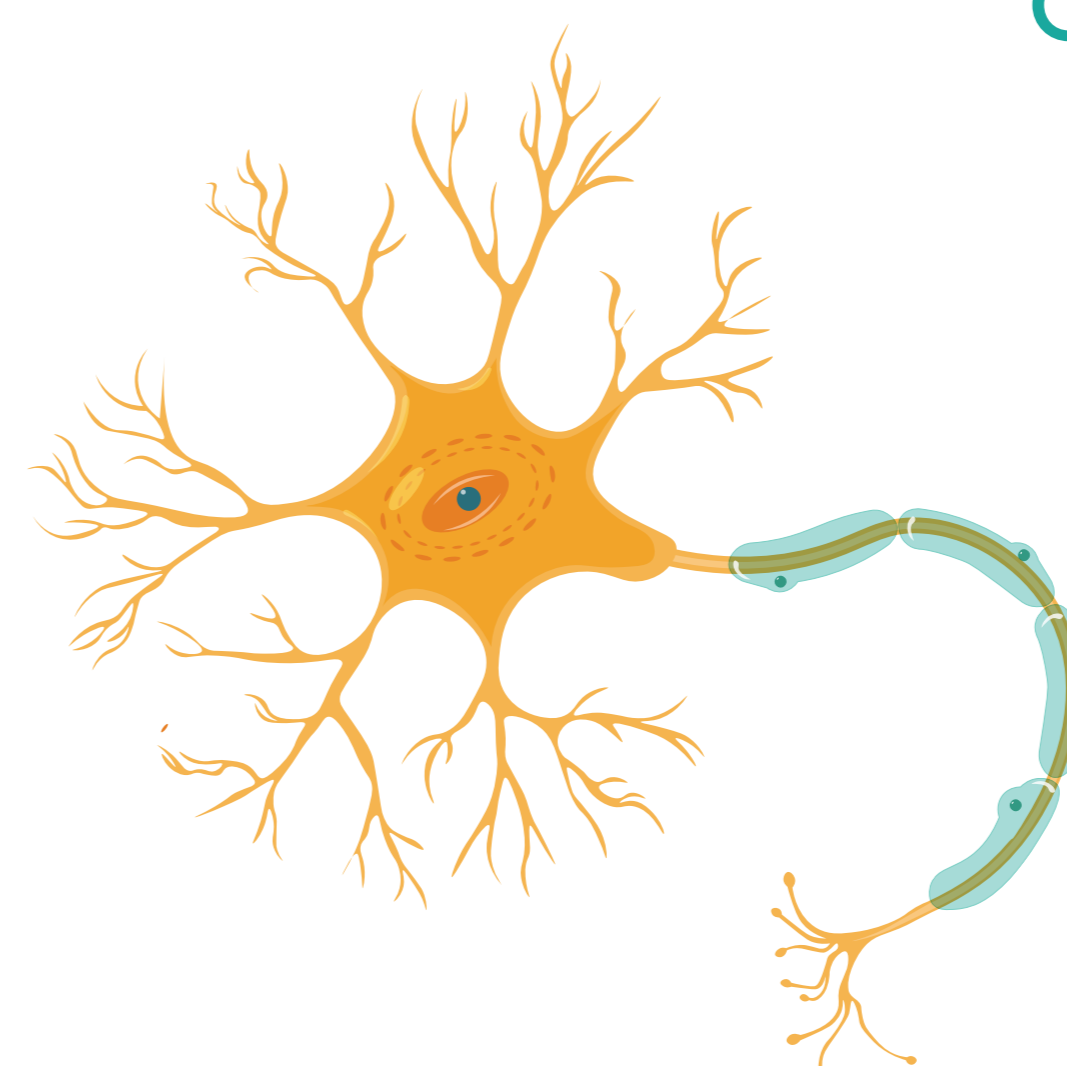
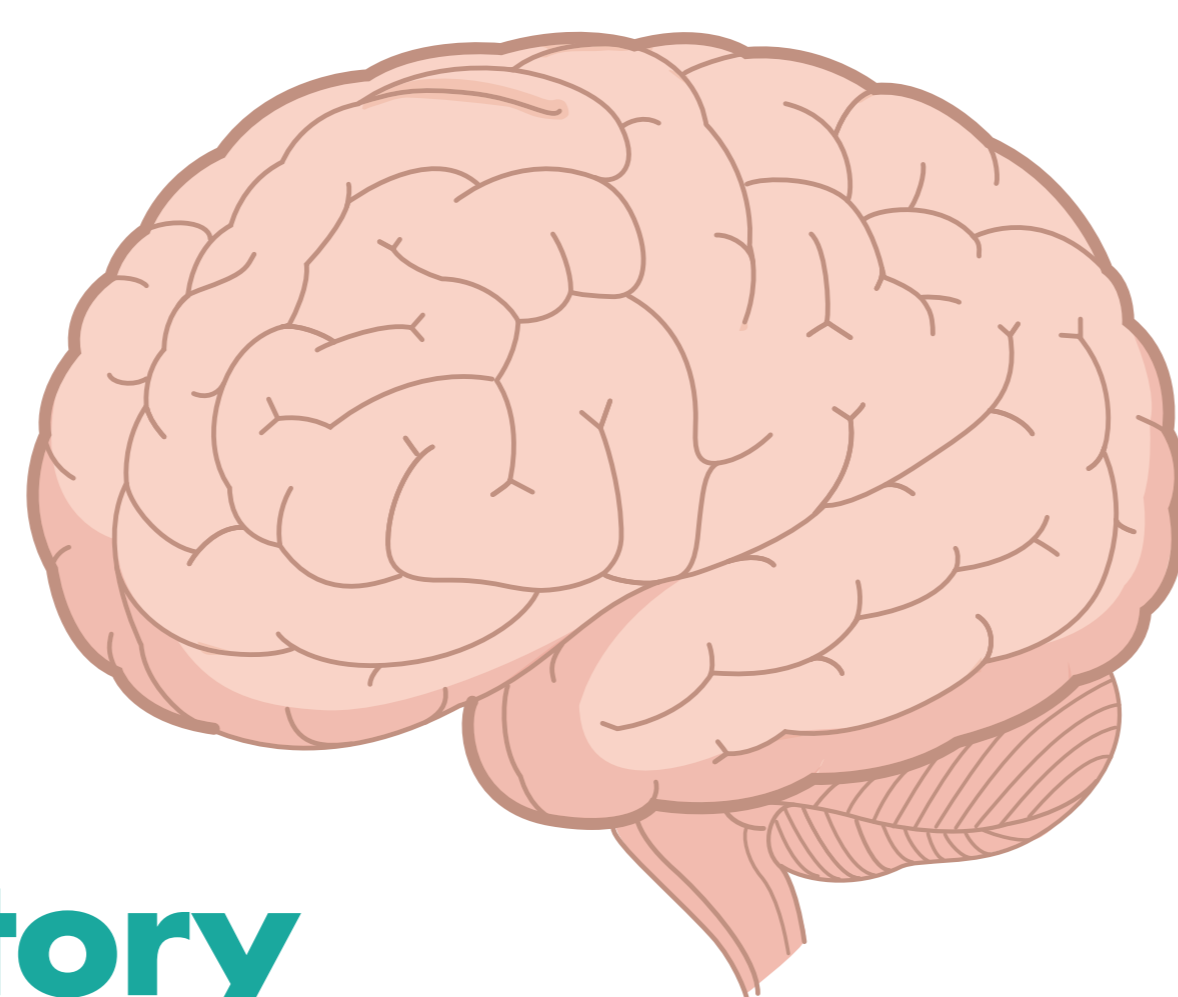
### Tumour

Ear or hearing nerve having a benign or cancer growth.

## 7.

### Central Auditory Processing Disorder

The ear hears, but the brain does not process sound information properly.



## 8.

### Auditory Neuropathy

Sound transmission from the inner ear to the hearing nerve and brainstem is disordered.

## 9.

### Faking It

To get out of school, work or for compensation.



## 10.

### Poor General Health

Diabetes, hypertension and smoking increases the risk of hearing loss.



Lynne Lim Ear Nose Throat & Hearing Centre (Child & Adult)

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