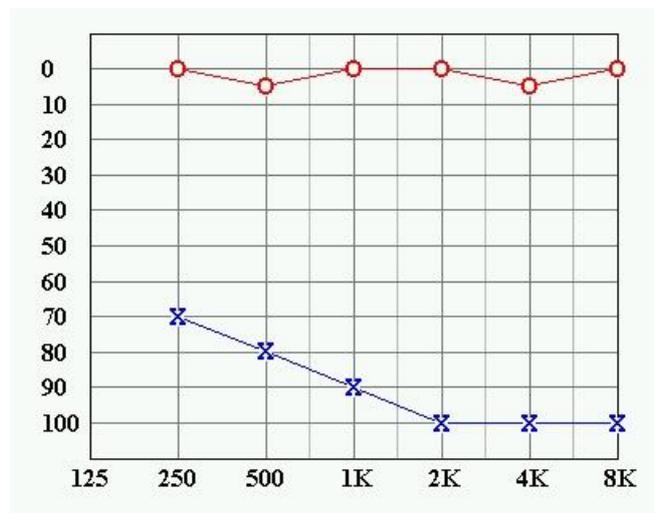


Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders

Unilateral hearing losses: Children and Young people (7-18years)



This Graph shows an example of a unilateral hearing loss. The red circles show that this ear has normal hearing. The blue crosses indicate that the other ear has a hearing loss. Where one ear has normal hearing and the other ear shows a hearing loss, it is known as a unilateral hearing loss as the hearing loss only affects one ear.

Unilateral hearing loss or single-sided deafness is a type of hearing impairment where there is normal hearing in one ear and impaired hearing in the other ear.

Patients with unilateral hearing loss have difficulty in:

- Hearing conversation or sounds on the side of the ear with the hearing loss
- Localising sound
- Understanding speech in the presence of background noise



Patient Information

- Identifying the direction of the source of sound
- Accessing information from CDs and audiotapes

In quiet conditions, speech can be heard at approximately the same level for people with normal hearing. However, in noisy environments speech discrimination varies individually and ranges from mild to severe problems depending upon the listening environment you are in.

Things that can help people with a unilateral hearing loss

- Ensure you are seated at the front of a classroom or lecture hall so you have good access to the speaker's voice
- The ideal seating position is with the better ear nearest the sound you need to hear and away from background noise

Things that other people can do to help people with a unilateral hearing loss

- Reiterate comments made to others in group discussions
- Ensure you have the person's attention before you speak
- Speak in a normal voice at a normal speed
- Check understanding through questioning
- Ensure the person is seated near to the loud speaker of any audio equipment

Contact details

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The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6444 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Patient Information

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

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