

Hearing Loss Causes Many Other Problems

From The Washington Post

Untreated hearing loss in senior citizens can lead to a variety of problems, including depression, anxiety and social isolation, to a survey of more than 60,000 hearing impaired people over age 50.

Compared with those who use hearing aids the study found, hearing impaired people who do not use hearing aids are more likely to report sadness and depression, worry and anxiety, paranoia and reduce social activity and emotional turmoil and insecurity.

The differences between hearing aid users and non users held up even when researchers controlled for the effects of other differences such as age, gender and income.

For example chronic sadness or depression was reported by 4 percent of hearing aid users but 55 percent of non users.

Hearing aid users reported improvements in many aspects of their lives, including their family relationships, sense of independence and sex life. Family members or close friends of the hearing impaired respondents, when asked a parallel set of questions, noticed the same improvements in the lives of their hearing aid users.

The National Survey, the largest of its kind was commissioned by the National Council on Aging, which reported the findings last month. The research was conducted by Marketing Strategies Inc; a survey research firm partly funded by The Hearing Industries Association.

Hearing loss is one of the most common chronic conditions in the USA. It affects more than 24 million Americans over age 65 and another 8 million aged 45 to 64. A majority of those people do not use hearing aids according to The National Council On Aging