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**Special Testing**

An important measure of your hearing status

1. **Speech in noise test**

A hearing test where you hear sentences that are presented at a comfortable listening level and the noise in the background changes in level to make the listening test quite challenging. This test dives deeper into your struggles in “hearing in a noisy environment”

1. **Brain Processing screening test**

A five-minute screening test that helps us understand the health and processing of information evaluating three cognitive abilities: Memory, visuospatial, and executive functioning.

1. **Loudness Measure test**

A measure to test your loudness and comfort listening levels. This helps us ensure that your listening needs are met and are comfortable at all times.

**Why is it important to measure these extra features?**

Testing peripheral hearing loss is easy with an audiogram. The audiogram let’s us see if there is a loss in audibility and how well you hear the words in quiet. What we don’t know is how you hear in noise. We also don’t know how your brain is processing information. Testing your ability to repeat sentences in noise, and your brain performance helps us evaluate and diagnose, counsel and find a solution on your abilities.

***Diagnose –***

* That there is a true objective disability in hearing in back ground noise and processing that the simple audiogram does not measure.

***Counseling –***

* For realistic expectations on what to expect when you are in background noise and more complex listening situations.
* For strategies to use when you are in complex listening environments.
* For finding solutions that will work for your needs as we understand that your difficulty is not just about hearing but also processing information in noisy and other harder situations.

***Other professionals Recommendations –***

Back ground noise is annoying and distracting for everyone when you want to carry on a conversation in noise. For people with hearing loss and auditory processing difficulties, it is even harder to hear the speech. But what if you have normal hearing thresholds and the audiogram tells you everything is within normal limits. These tests will allow us at Hears to U, to determine where the breakdown may be coming from and help with recommendations. The term has been coined a “Hidden Hearing Loss”. This hidden loss could be from an aging process, attention processes, auditory processing, or something else that might need to see another health professional.

**Does Insurance cover this test?**

Medicare and other insurance companies do not pay for this type of testing. So the answer is no, there is no coverage for this test. Researchers have been encouraging audiologists to do this test and discussing why it is so important. What we are missing is the push at the legislative issue to get these tests and other hearing health care needs covered. We encourage you to reach out to your legislator and share your concern with the lack of coverage for hearing health care.

***Let us know if you would like us at Hears to U, to diagnose your ability to hear in noise and help you hear just that much better.***