

Did you know...there's a link between hearing loss and dementia?

If you or a loved one suffers from hearing loss, schedule a hearing evaluation today.

(248) 266-8679

Brain Fitness & Hearing Loss

Recent studies have shown a link between hearing loss and dementia. Patients with moderate to severe hearing loss are most at risk for developing degenerative cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer's disease. A study to look at the effects of Brain Fitness software was conducted on participants with a wide range of hearing abilities, the results were impressive.

Participants were randomly assigned to one of two training groups, the Posit Science's Brain Fitness group and the control group. Those assigned to the Brain Fitness group ranged in age from 55 to 70 and were instructed to use the program on their personal computers for one hour each day, five days a week, for a total of eight weeks. Training covered six separate modules that studied the link between memory and perception in different situations, focusing primarily on the consonant-vowel transition, a notoriously vulnerable area of speech.

At the start of the program the transition times were extended, and then gradually shortened as listener performance improved. Participants in this group showed improvements in neural timing, short-term memory and processing speed, particularly in noisy situations, while the control group displayed no change in hearing or cognitive functioning. Those in the Brain Fitness group were enthusiastic over their experience, and reported noticeable improvements in both their ability to hear and to focus on conversations. With such encouraging results, audiologists should consider auditory training techniques to help manage hearing loss in their patients.

Hearing devices provide an invaluable benefit to millions of Americans suffering from hearing loss, but even they have their limits. Following conversations in noisy

environments is an ongoing challenge for a number of reasons, including deficits in central auditory processing and cognitive function. Participating in brain exercises is one way for these patients to help improve their listening experience.

Daily brain exercises can help fend off or delay Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. Just fifteen minutes of rigorous brain exercise a day is enough to keep the brain active.

Call to schedule a comprehensive hearing evaluation today with one of our licensed audiologists.
(248) 266-8679



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