

# Sudden sensorineural hearing loss

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Defined as  $>30$  dB sensorineural hearing loss at three frequencies within 3 days. History and examination should focus on a cause, which may be infective, neoplastic, traumatic, ototoxic, neurological or autoimmune. Investigations such as MRI are important (1% of acoustic neuromas present as sudden sensorineural hearing loss) but screening blood tests are of low yield where there is nothing in the history to suggest a cause. The majority are idiopathic and the recommended treatment is oral steroids with/without intratympanic steroids with salvage intratympanic steroids for those who do not recover after 2 weeks. Sudden sensorineural hearing loss

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