## Screening for Hearing Loss in Older Adults

**Clinical Summary of U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Asymptomatic adults aged 50 years or older</th>
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| **Recommendation** | **No recommendation.**  
Grade: I (Insufficient Evidence)** |

### Risk Assessment

Increasing age is the most important risk factor for hearing loss. Other risk factors include a history of exposure to loud noises or ototoxic agents, including occupational exposures, previous recurrent inner ear infections, genetic factors, and certain systemic diseases, such as diabetes.

### Screening Tests

Various screening tests are used in primary care settings to detect hearing loss in adults, including:
- Whispered voice test
- Finger rub test
- Watch tick test
- Single-item screening (for example, asking “Do you have difficulty with your hearing?”)
- Multiple-item patient questionnaire (for example, Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly–Screening Version)
- Handheld audiometer

### Interventions

Hearing aids can improve self-reported hearing, communication, and social functioning for some adults with age-related hearing loss.

### Balance of Harms and Benefits

There is inadequate evidence to determine the balance of benefits and harms of screening for hearing loss in adults aged 50 years or older.

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making these recommendations, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents, please go to [http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/).