

**AUDITORY
PROCESSING**

DISORDER

What is it?
Symptoms
Treatment



What is APD?

Auditory Processing is 'what the brain does with what we hear' . Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is a difficulty in processing what you hear, and it can be detected / diagnosed in adults and children older than 8.

Important

Auditory Processing Disorder is different from deafness. A person could have normal hearing and difficulty understanding what is being said. Even adults diagnosed with APD who have probably found ways to compensate for their difficulties throughout their lives can still benefit from APD treatment

What to do

If you or your child are experiencing a number of these symptoms, it is recommended that you or (s)he take a complete Hearing Assessment including tests that assess the Auditory Processing with an Audiologist after seeing an Ear, Nose and Throat consultant.

Diagnosis

There are different abilities involved in processing what you hear. Different tests are carried out to identify which of these abilities requires attention.

Treatment

The APD treatment should be multidisciplinary, including professionals such as Speech & Language Therapists and Psychologists.

Once the deficient ability(s) has been identified, the audiologist and/or speech therapist will work with the patient to strengthen these processes.

For example, were a person to have difficulty processing speech in background noise, appropriate activities can help him/her develop the capacity to overcome or develop strategies to deal with the difficulty.

Signs of APD

- child/adult who can't follow a conversation with more than one person talking at the same time
- who can't understand jokes or double meaning
- who is inattentive and easily distracted
- who doesn't answer promptly when called or has to be called several times before they do
- who delivers mixed up messages or gets events and words mixed up when telling a story or a joke
- who has 'mirrored' writing or gets letters/sounds mixed up (e.g. 'pall' instead of ball)
- who has bad handwriting
- who has difficulty with right and left
- who has memory problems
- child who is very active or very quiet
- who has difficulty making friends with children from their own age-group
- who has difficulties at school (English and/or Irish and/or Mathematics)
- who has difficulty learning how to read/write
- who can't understand/interpret what they read

NOTE: These symptoms may be present in other pathologies than APD

Parents and Teachers can help too!

- before you start talking to the child, you should call for, look at or touch their arm to ensure they are listening to you
- to start, try to reduce the noise at home (by turning off the TV or radio) or in the classroom (by asking for silence, or closing the doors and windows while you talk to the child)
- try to speak more slowly, articulate the sounds better, and repeat the request more than once
- speak up without shouting
- use shorter sentences

Create
situations
where you can
communicate
with your child
for at least 15
minutes
every day:
Tell stories,
sing songs,
ask him/her about
his/her day and
activities

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