

Soundbite Script – Diabetes and hearing loss

Dr. Chris Workman, audiologist, OSF HealthCare

“There's about 28 million people in the United States with hearing loss. There's 37 million people with diabetes. So, we can surmise that there's a good portion of that 28 million who have diabetes that also have hearing loss.” (:18)

Dr. Chris Workman, audiologist, OSF HealthCare

“I believe high blood sugar could potentially affect the blood flow to the inner ear and some of the hair cells which could affect and cause some hearing loss. Low blood sugar could cause some damage to the nerve and transmission of the hearing.” (:15)

Dr. Chris Workman, audiologist, OSF HealthCare

“For those patients, we would recommend following up with an annual hearing test to keep an eye on things. We encourage them to diet, exercise and take their medication as needed to get better control of diabetes. Otherwise, they're prone to potential hearing loss and more severe loss.” (:22)

Dr. Chris Workman, audiologist, OSF HealthCare

“I think raising awareness of hearing loss not only impacts the individual with the hearing loss, but impacts family, friends, coworkers. If we can raise that awareness and get them help sooner, we're going to continue their quality of life and transition easier to any type of treatment.” (:25)