What is an Otolaryngologist?

An Otolaryngologist is a doctor of medicine who specializes in disorders of the head and neck. This encompasses disorders relating to otology (ear), rhinology (nose and sinuses), laryngology (voice box), bronchoesophagology (upper airway and throat), tumor surgery of the head and neck, and plastic and reconstructive surgery of the face and neck. The Otolaryngologist sees patients of all ages and with a variety of medical and surgical diseases. Patients seeing an Otolaryngologist may be "primary care" for certain disorders, but are often referred from other doctors for specialized care. The department of audiology works closely with otolaryngology in providing care for patients.

What Does this Specialist Do?

The scope of the Otolaryngologist encompasses a variety of medical and surgical problems that relate to the head and neck. This includes disorders of the ear, balance, hearing, nose, sinuses, throat, voice box, oral cavity, neck, thyroid, salivary glands, bronchial tubes, esophagus, as well as cosmetic surgery of the face, head and neck. Examples may include micro-surgery of the ear, endoscopic nasal and sinus surgery, laser surgery, treatment of benign and malignant tumors of the head and neck and primary medical treatment of diseases of the head and neck.

What Training is Required?

An Otolaryngologist is ready to start practice after 13 or more years of college and postgraduate training. To receive certification from the American Board of Otolaryngology, a physician must complete college, medical school, and at least 5 years of specialty training. A well-trained Otolaryngologist has a thorough knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, bacteriology, pharmacology, and pathology of all those organs and structures of the head and neck region. This allows the appropriate medical and/or surgical care to be given.

Resources

The department of otolaryngology and audiology offers hearing tests, specialized audiometry and neuro-otologic exams, such as the brainstem evoked response (BSER) and electronystagmography (ENG). A full range of other diagnostic tests are available on location at The Sheboygan Clinic including full x-ray facilities, computerized tomography (CT scan), and diagnostic laboratory facilities. Special equipment is available at The Clinic which allows the Otolaryngologist to perform microsurgery, fiber optic examinations, and certain out-patient procedures.

As a specialist in disorders of the head and neck, and airways, the Otolaryngologist is actively involved in the study and treatment of disorders of breathing and sleep.
Audiology

Audiologists are University trained certified professionals who provide diagnostic and rehabilitative services for hearing impaired individuals of all ages. Services available include:

- Hearing evaluations
- Hearing aid evaluations
- Hearing aids
- Hearing aid repairs
- Industrial hearing conservation programs
- Educational hearing programs
- Impedance audiometry
- Auditory brainstem evoked response testing
- Electronystagmography (ENG)

Referrals are accepted from medical professionals; non-medical specialists such as teachers, social workers, speech pathologists, school psychologists, concerned parents, family members, or through self referral.

Most Important - You The Patient

In having your problem evaluated, you may undergo specialized exams and procedures which are unfamiliar. Please ask questions. We are here to serve and educate you.

The information presented is intended for general information and educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care provider. Contact your health care provider if you believe you have a health problem.