

THE HIDDEN CONNECTION: DIABETES AND HEARING LOSS

A CALL TO INTEGRATED CARE

Dr. Norm Dawson

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

DR. NORM DAWSON DOES NOT HAVE ANY FINANCIAL
RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANY COMMERCIAL INTERESTS
THAT CREATE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST AFFECTING THE
CONTENT OF THIS PRESENTATION REGARDING
PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Describe how diabetes may affect the physiology of arterial inflammation impacting the structure and function of the auditory system and the brain.

Describe at least two brief strategies that can be used when communicating with clients to indicate possible hearing loss.

Implement tools to recognize communication breakdowns due to hearing loss that may cause misunderstanding or loss of comprehension of basic quality of care instructions affecting patient compliance.

Agenda

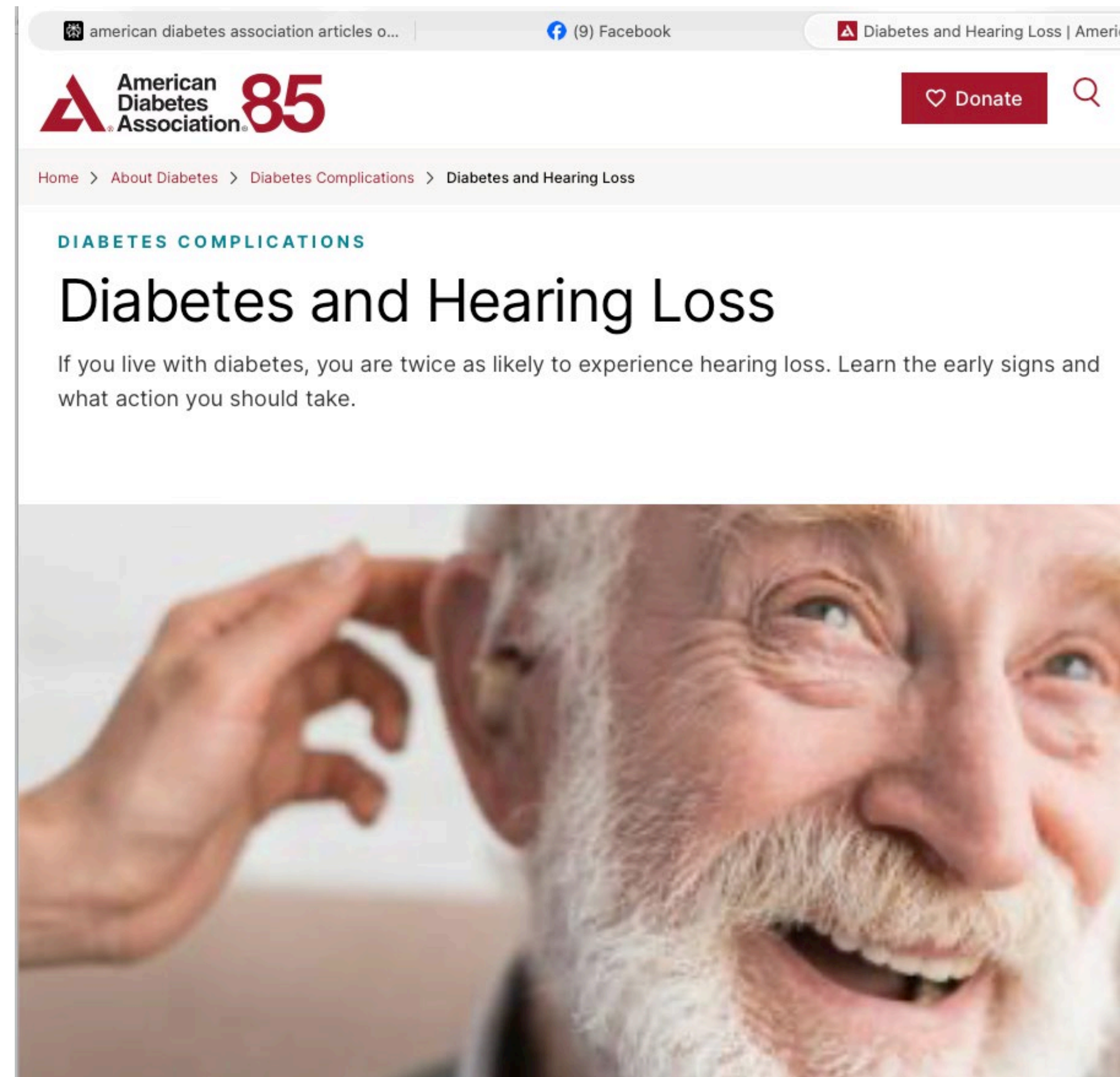
- Diabetes, Arterial Inflammation, Brain and the Auditory System
- Identifying Possible Hearing Loss During Routine Care
- Tools to Use When Communication Breaks Down to Improve Compliance
- Large Group Q & A
- Reflection



Topic 1:

Arterial Inflammation, and the Auditory System

What Diabetes Does Beyond Blood Sugar



What Does Diabetes Effect?

- Pancreas
- Kidneys
- Eyes
- Feet
- Brain
- Ears
- Not just a glucose disorder
- It's an inflammatory condition

Auditory System

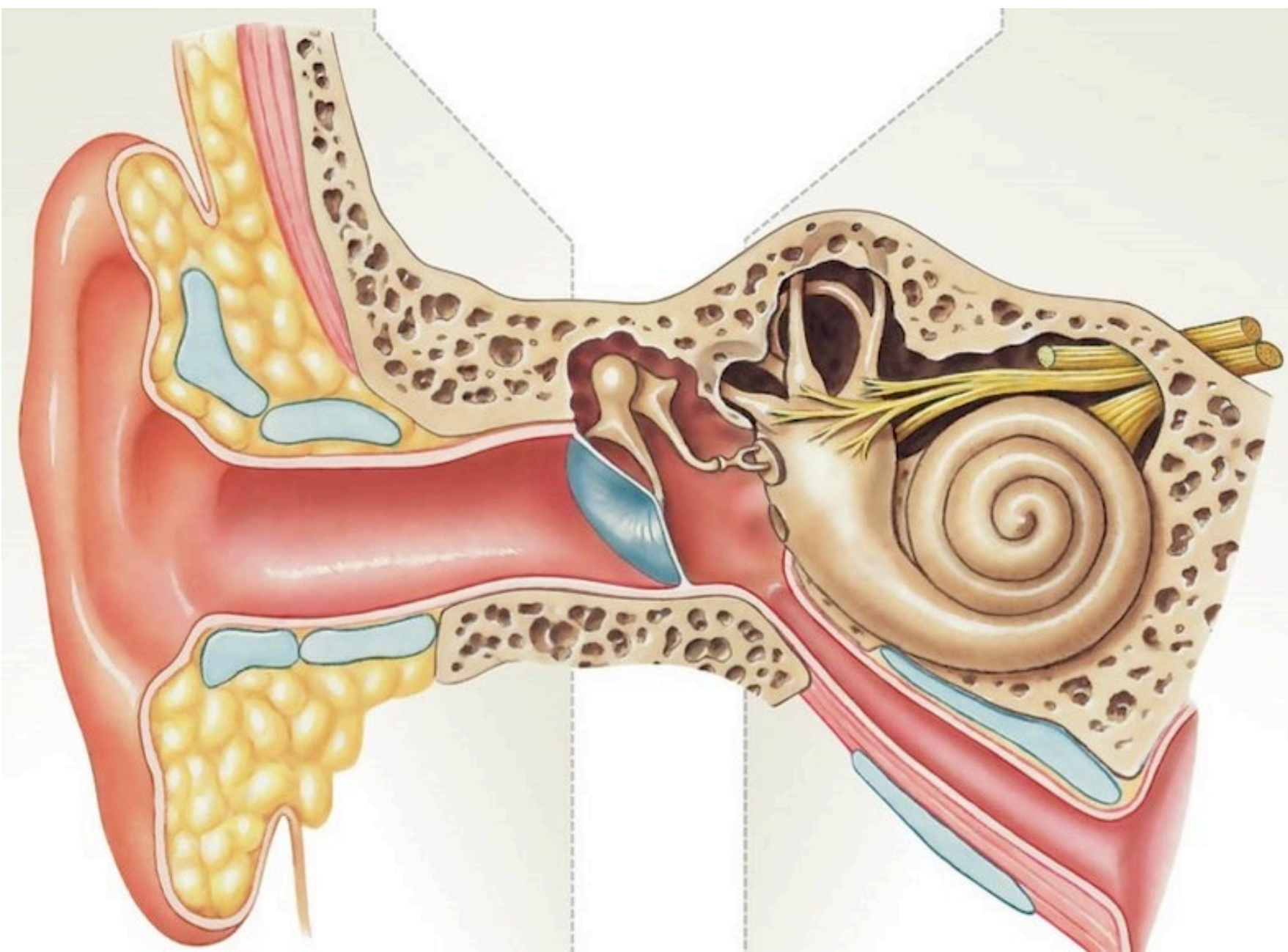
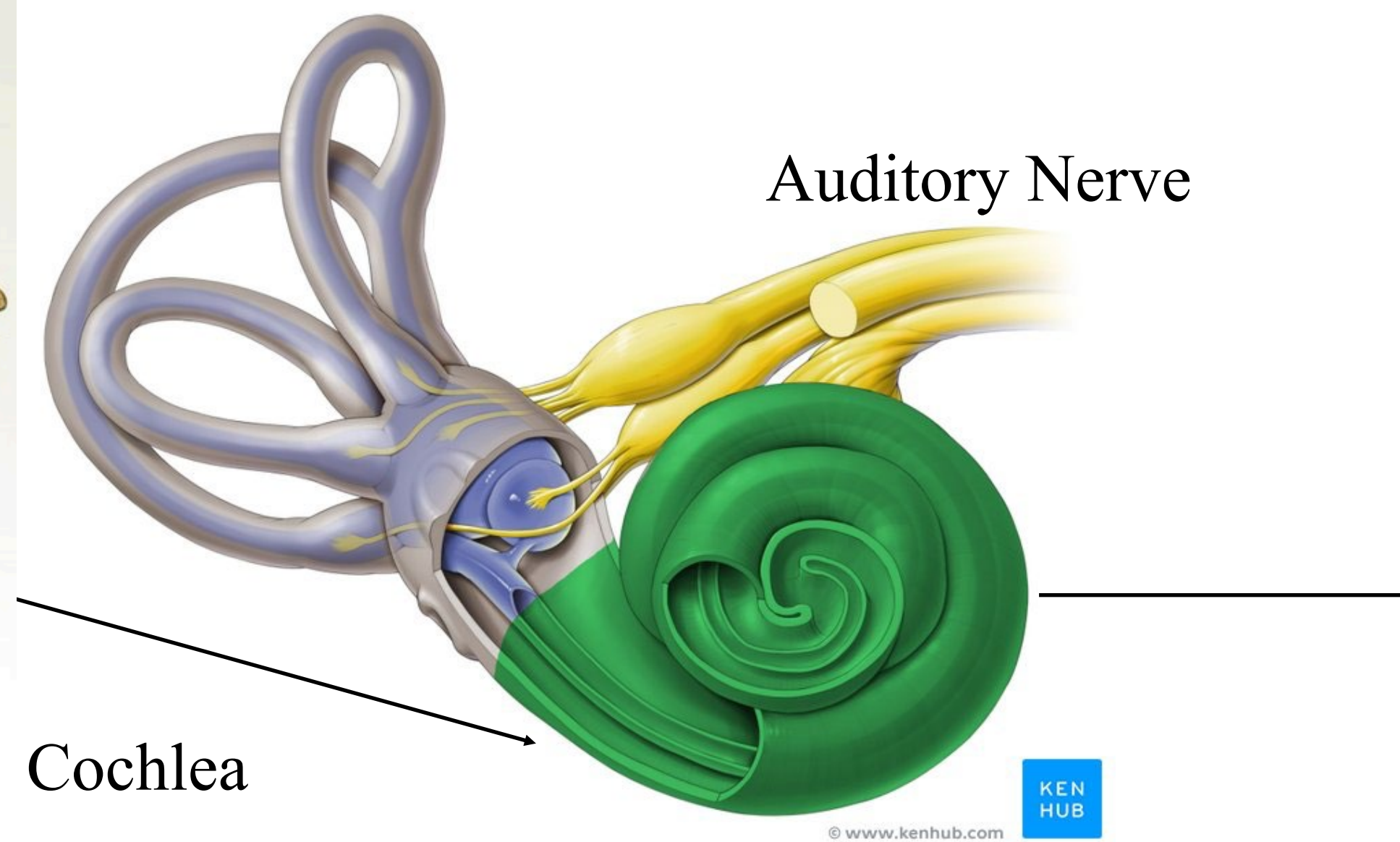
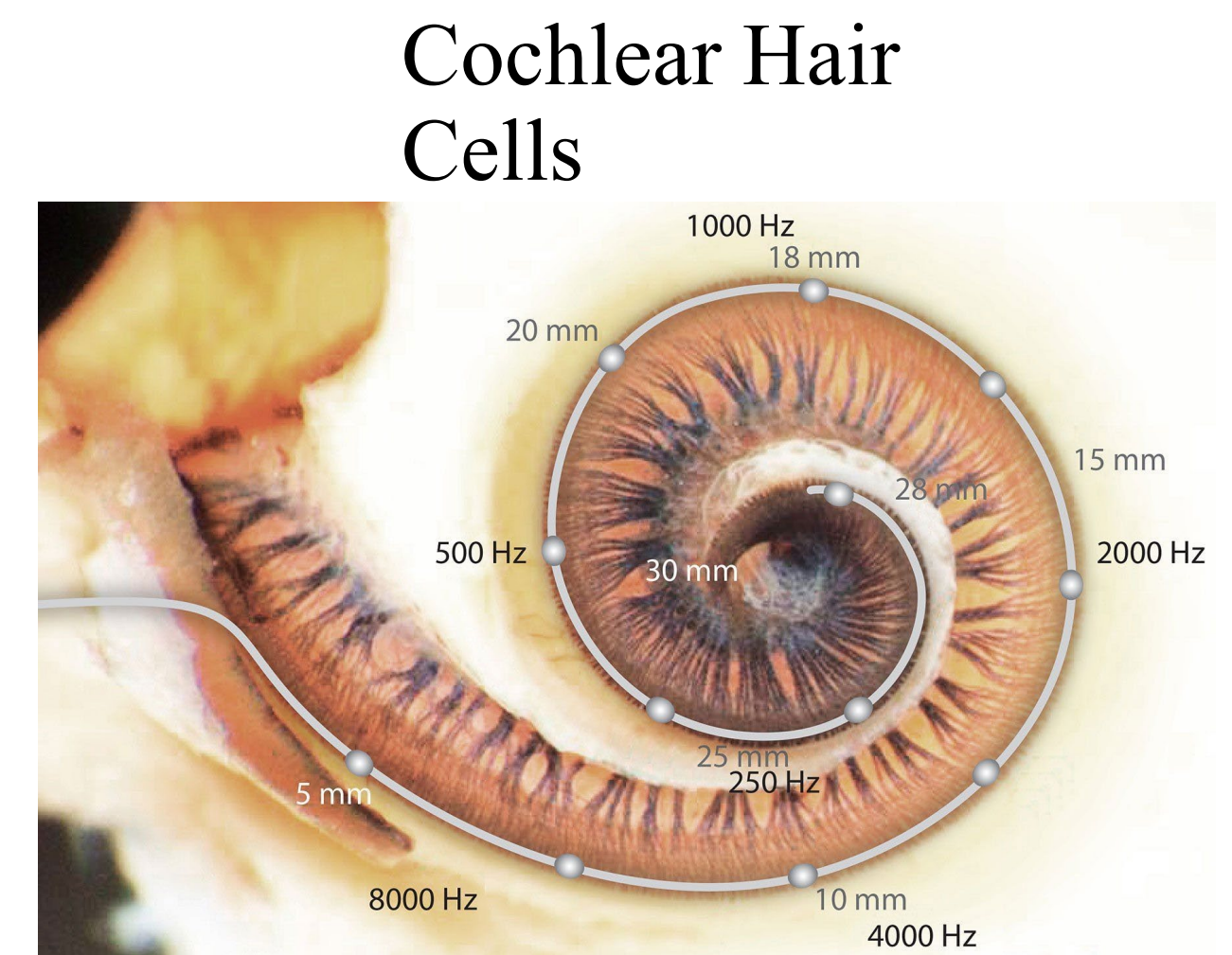


Image by Quizlet.com

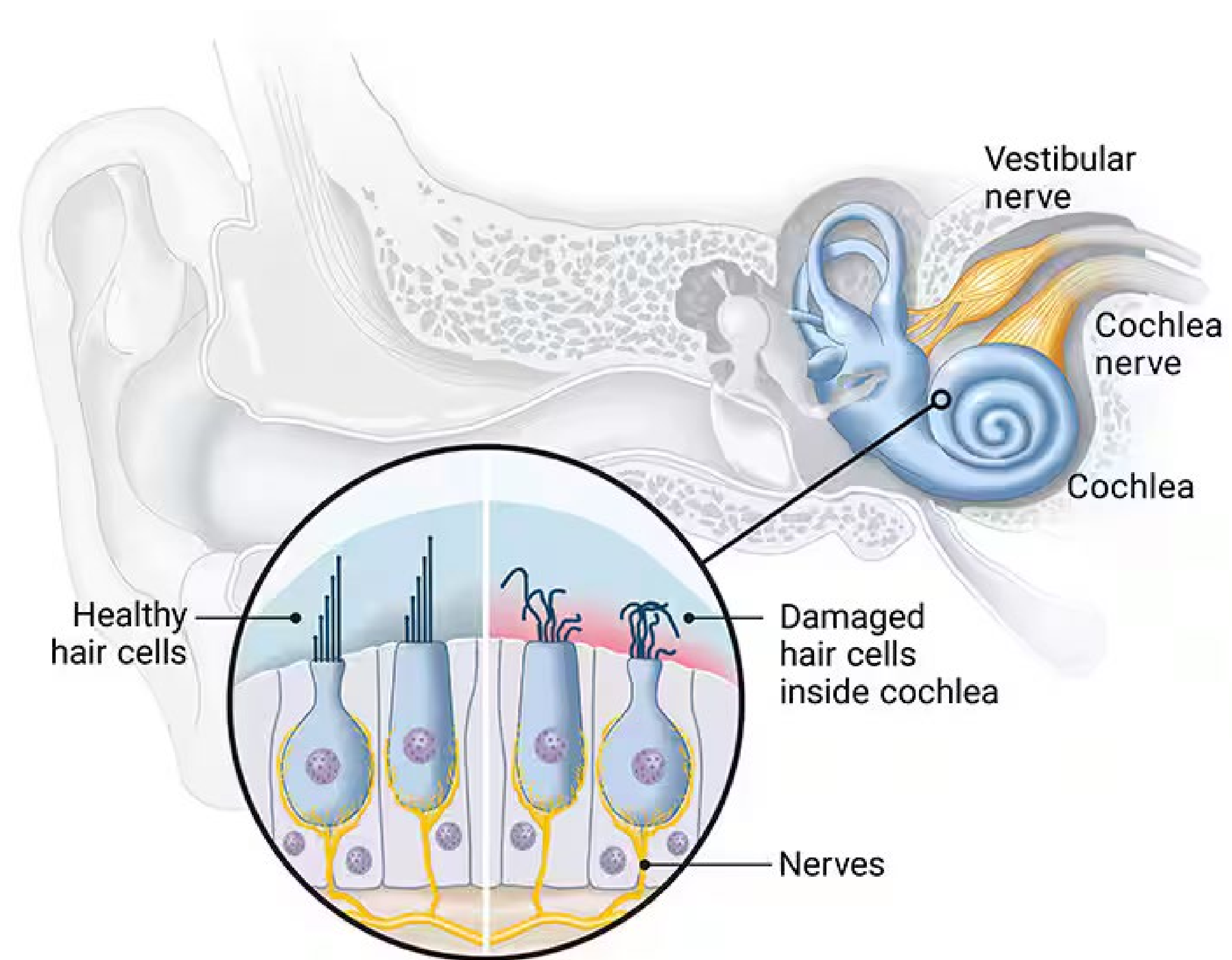


Cochlea

Auditory Nerve



<https://guideofgreece.com/>



<https://d2u1z1lopyfwlx.cloudfront.net/thumbnails/7777f95d-8c67-5eae-8217-84694c71d995/315d3355-9c8e-522f-b577-15a69e12a94e.jpg>

Breakout Discussion

10 minutes

Do you currently screen for hearing loss in your patients with diabetes?

If so how, if not ...

What would be a **realistic** way to integrate hearing screening into diabetes care?



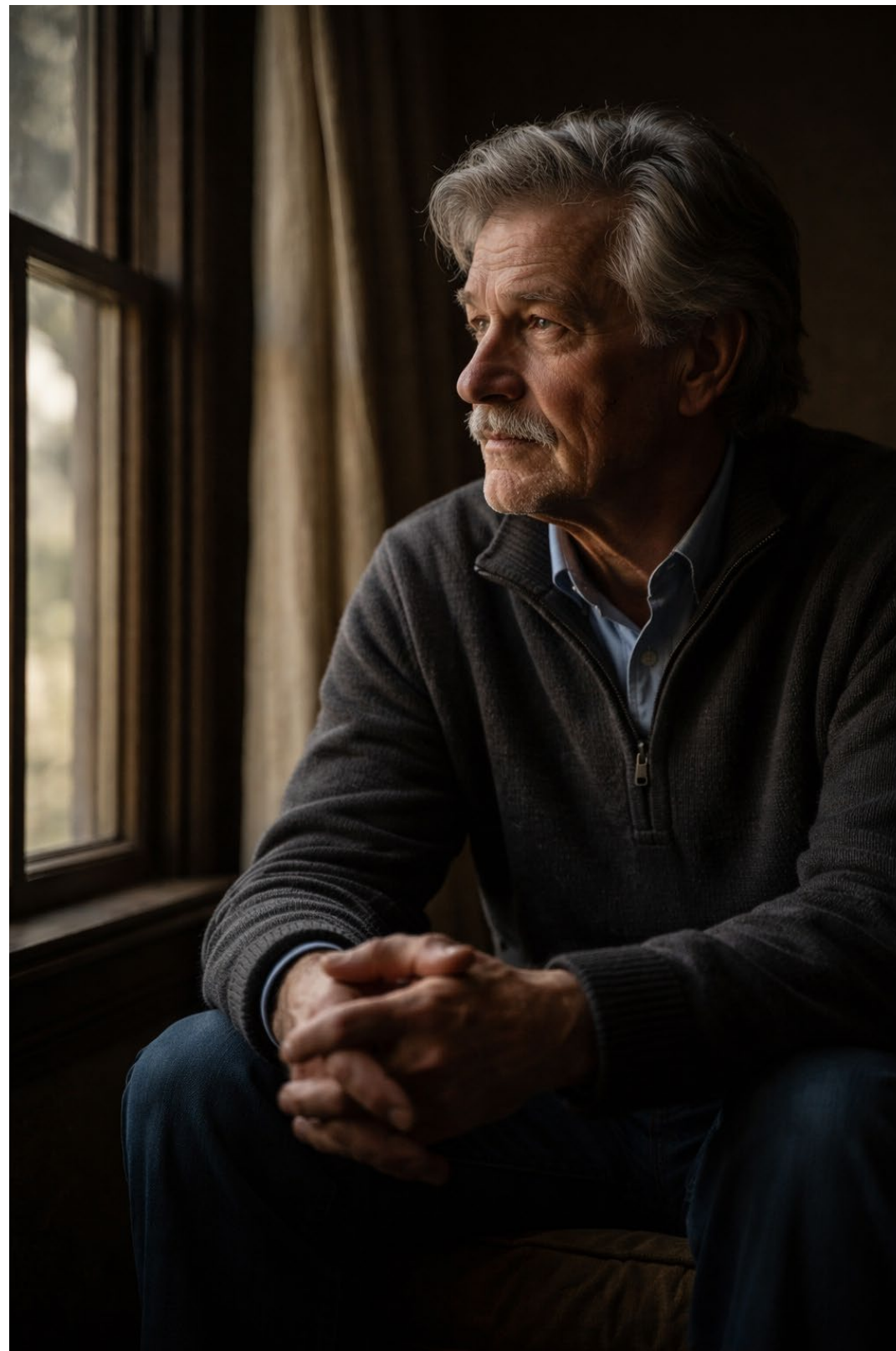
What is one practical idea
your group would be willing to try
to screen for hearing loss?



Topic 2:

During Routine Care, How Can You Identify Possible Hearing Loss

Hearing Loss Often Hides in Plain Sight



Source: Wikimedia Commons, File: Acoustic aircraft detection horns.jpeg (1921). Public domain (United States).

Patients don't tell us they can't hear—they tell us they didn't understand.

- * <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-03-people-dont-loss.html>
- * <https://www.entandaudiologynews.com/features/audiology-features/post/screening-for-hearing-loss-in-primary-care>



Communication Strategies

- EDUCATION:
 - We are screening for HL b/c diabetics have a higher incidence of hearing loss
 - Ask a simple question, “When is the last time you had your hearing checked?”
- CHECKING-IN:
 - Ask Questions
 - Verify their understanding
 - Check-in with the patient. “What did you hear me say about your treatment?”



Breakout Discussion

10 minutes

What phrases could you use to gently raise hearing awareness?

How could these conversations fit into a 10–15 minute visit?

When you talk with your patients, what plain words would you use to describe their treatment or diagnosis?



What is one practical idea
your group would be willing to try
identify hearing loss during a routine visit?



Topic 3:

Recognizing Communication Breakdowns That Affect Compliance

When Hearing Loss Looks Like Non-Compliance



Breakout Discussion

10 minutes

What are some tools you can implement immediately?



What is one practical idea
your group would be willing to try
to improve compliance?



Wrap It All Up - Final Comments

- Look at your notes ...
- What are the three actionable items you can / will implement when you see patients?



Q & A

What struck you during this presentation?





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