



by David Glaser, Au.D., CCC-A, FAAA
Doctor of Audiology

NOISE AFFECTS SOME MORE THAN OTHERS

While the best way to prevent hearing loss is to limit exposure to loud noise, researchers are beginning to find that some people may be more prone to noise-induced “sensorineural” (nerve-related) hearing loss than others. This type of hearing loss involves irreparable damage to tiny “hair cells” in the inner ear, which convert sound vibrations into nerve impulses and transmit them to the brain. When researchers performed audiometric tests on individuals with a mutation in the gene responsible for an auditory protein called “pejvakin,” they found that people with damaged pejvakin were more susceptible to noise-induced hearing loss even when exposed to seemingly harmless sounds. This research suggests a possible genetic component in noise-induced early-onset sensorineural hearing loss.

TIP OF THE WEEK

If you are worried that being in a certain environment will cause damage to your hearing, it is better to be safe than sorry and protect those ears with hearing protection.

P.S. The research described above provides further reason to protect the ears from unnecessary noise, regardless of how loud it is.

AA-19