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TONE DEAFNESS' SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

You may be familiar with the terms “tone deaf” or “congenital amusia,” which refer to the inability to accurately perceive differences of musical pitch. Tone deafness is estimated to affect about 4% of the population and is the reason why some people find it difficult (if not impossible) to carry a tune. As it turns out, tone-deaf individuals may also find it difficult to accurately read facial expressions or detect a false laugh. If so, these limitations can adversely impact their social skills. According to a recent small study involving 24 people, the 13 “amusics” in the group found it more difficult to accurately identify the emotions (sadness, anger, etc.) in human vocalizations, as well as the facial expressions.

TIP OF THE WEEK

If you experience any difficulties with your hearing abilities, contact an audiologist to have a comprehensive hearing evaluation. Even if you are not a candidate for amplification, you will at least have a baseline of your your hearing abilities.

P.S. Many consider amusia to be a neurological problem, not an auditory one. However, if high-frequency sensorineural hearing loss is a contributing factor, a hearing instrument may help.

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