### EAR, NOSE & THROAT CENTER, LLP TULLY HEALTH CENTER

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# TINNITUS MANAGMENT

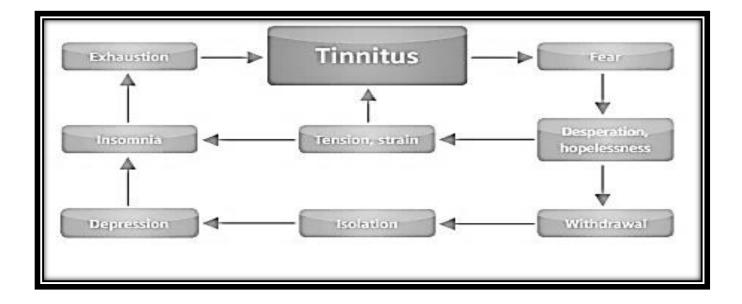
# WHAT IS TINNITUS

A BUZZ, RING, WHOOSH, OR OTHER NOISE YOU HEAR INTERNALLY DUE TO DAMAGE IN THE HEARING SYSTEM

#### HOW CAN I MANAGE?

- Relaxation and mindfulness
- Meditation
- deep breaths
- Destress/avoiding stress
- Background noise/sound distractors
- Sound generator pillows
- Hearing protection in loud environments
- Cognitive Behavior Therapy
- Avoid silence

## MENTAL HEALTH AND MOOD/BEHAVIOR IMPACTS TINNITUS



## SUGGESTED DIETARY CHANGES

• Decrease caffeine, salt, nicotine, and alcohol if consumed in large quantities

#### SOLUTIONS?

There is no magic pill.

Stress management, including regular exercise and maintaining a healthy diet

• If you have hearing loss, studies have shown that wearing hearing aids and gaining access to environmental sounds have helped decrease tinnitus

## WHAT CAUSES TINNITUS?

THE JURY IS STILL OUT!

## THEORY 1

Damage to the sensory cells in the inner ear at specific pitches has caused degradation to the hearing nerve, therefore no signals at these pitches are sent to the brain

The brain then sends a signal to the hearing nerve and thus you hear noises.

## THEORY 2

Sensory cells in the inner ear become damaged in an "active" state causing signals to be sent down the hearing nerve to the brain.

The brain then 'processes' these signals as the sound you hear as noises.

## INORGANIC AND LESS COMMON CAUSES

Ototoxic medications, head injury, a buildup of wax, anemia, hypertension, hypothyroidism, migraine, benign 8th nerve tumor, TMJ

## IN CONCLUSION

Tinnitus is a product of damage to the hearing system

Smart phone apps with tinnitus management tools and relaxation.

