

DIRECTIONS

Stony Brook University Hospital
Department of Speech and Hearing
33 Research Way
East Setauket, NY 11733
(631) 444-4191

STONY BROOK TECHNOLOGY PARK



- When heading north on Nicolls Road, turn right on Route 347 (east). When heading south on Nicolls Road, turn left on Route 347 (east). Continue to Belle Mead Road.
- Make a left onto Belle Mead Road.
- Turn right on Research Way. Building 33 is on the left-hand side.

SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING



As Long Island's premier academic medical center, Stony Brook serves as the region's only tertiary care center and Level 1 trauma center. It is home to the Stony Brook University Cancer Center, Heart Center, and the Center for Perinatal and Neonatal Intensive Care. With an exceptional healthcare team and advanced technology, Stony Brook plays a pivotal role in leading research and pioneering techniques, and provides training for medical and other healthcare professionals.

To learn more about the many services offered at Stony Brook University Medical Center, or for physician referrals or assistance with appointment scheduling, please call (631) 444-4000, or visit our Web site at www.StonyBrookMedicalCenter.org.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL'S DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING performs comprehensive evaluation and therapy services for individuals with hearing, balance, speech, language, voice, feeding, and swallowing problems. Specialists work together to provide expert personalized care for people of all ages, from infants to those who have reached an advanced age.

Our Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists are certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, licensed by New York State, and have post-graduate academic and clinical training. Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists work with specialists from other disciplines, including otolaryngology, radiology, gastroenterology, neurology, pediatrics, oncology, and other medical and rehabilitative areas. These close relationships help to ensure the most comprehensive and advanced care for patients.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES

Speech-Language Pathologists provide a full range of diagnostic and therapeutic services to evaluate and treat individuals who have swallowing, feeding, speech, language, and voice impairments.

SWALLOWING/FEEDING

Dysphagia is the medical term for difficulty in swallowing. An estimated 15 million Americans have symptoms of dysphagia, which include coughing or choking while eating, difficulty chewing, and/or problems moving food and liquids through the mouth or throat.

Children may also have motor, sensory, and/or behavioral feeding impairments that result in poor weight gain and growth, gagging, and limited acceptance of food textures and tastes.

Comprehensive evaluation and treatment assist patients in avoiding medical problems such as pneumonia, malnutrition, or dehydration. Swallowing/feeding treatment plans may include changing diets, posture training, behavioral feeding techniques, oral/facial stimulation, direct swallowing exercises, and/or electronic or computerized swallowing treatments.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

Evaluation and individualized therapy programs are provided to individuals who have weakness or reduced coordination of facial muscles, speech-sound errors, or have language impairments resulting from neurological conditions.

SPEECH RESONANCE

Speech resonance services are offered to individuals with altered sound production and nasal speech, often associated with cleft palate. Speech-Language Pathologists are integral members of Stony Brook's Cleft Palate Team and provide a full range of evaluation and treatment services to children and adults with this condition.

VOICE

Voice analysis is performed for individuals with loss of voice, hoarse or raspy voice quality, or inefficient voice production that results from various vocal-fold conditions. Examination by an Otolaryngologist/Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) physician is important before beginning voice therapy to ensure a correct diagnosis and a better outcome. Voice therapy is often recommended to improve the quality of voice utilizing behavioral voice therapy, resonant voice therapy, and professional voice use training.

VOICE RESTORATION

Services are provided to restore verbal communication due to loss of voice from laryngeal cancer surgery or altered airway conditions. Electrolarynx training, esophageal speech therapy, and tracheoesophageal voice prosthesis (TEP) services are available for individuals who have experienced total laryngectomy surgery. For patients with tracheostomy tubes, assessment is provided to accurately identify individuals who can benefit from speaking valve use.

HEARING SERVICES

Stony Brook's Audiologists specialize in pediatric and adult hearing, auditory processing, balance, and cochlear implants. Audiologists work collaboratively with the Department of Otolaryngology to provide both medical and rehabilitative management for patients.

PEDIATRIC

Pediatric Audiology is a specialized field requiring a high level of expertise to accurately determine the presence, type, and degree of hearing loss in children.

Infants and Toddlers

The Department is equipped with computerized technology that allows Audiologists to perform hearing screenings and complete diagnostic evaluations on infants as early as one day after birth.

In order to provide the most accurate and complete testing, older infants and toddlers are evaluated using a two-audiologist team approach. Our experience and spending the appropriate amount of time with each child enable us to assess hearing in even the most difficult-to-test children.

School-Age Children

Any degree of hearing loss can be educationally handicapping for children. Even a child with mild hearing loss can miss up to 50 percent of classroom discussions. Unmanaged hearing loss in children can affect their speech, language, educational, social, and emotional development. Comprehensive hearing tests are performed to determine if a child has normal or reduced hearing. Audiologists make recommendations for management, depending on the degree and type of hearing loss.

Some children have difficulty processing or interpreting auditory information despite normal ear function. This is called an auditory processing disorder. We specialize in evaluating children with suspected auditory processing problems, and assist school professionals in devising management plans specific to each child's needs.

ADULT

An estimated 28 million Americans have a hearing impairment and 12 million suffer from tinnitus (noises in the ears). Ear damage can result from exposure to noise, head and/or ear trauma, ear infections, certain medications, heredity, tumors, or unknown causes. Persons with decreased hearing or tinnitus are evaluated by an Audiologist. Individual counseling is provided to discuss management options and recommendations.

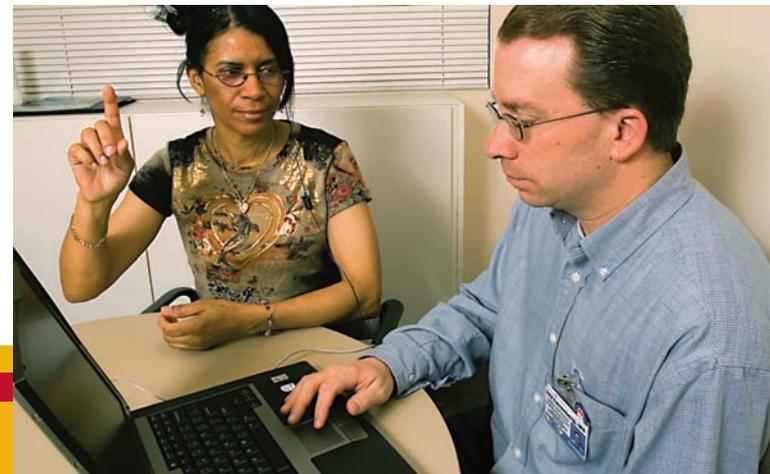
VESTIBULAR (BALANCE) ASSESSMENT

Vestibular testing can be performed for a person experiencing vertigo (sensation of spinning or movement) or disequilibrium (feeling of unsteadiness). Symptoms can be caused by damage to the ear, central nervous system dysfunction, or other medical conditions. Audiologists perform testing that evaluates the vestibular system. These tests assist the referring physician in determining a diagnosis. Other specialized tests of the hearing nerve are performed when patients are referred by physicians to assess nervous system function.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

A cochlear implant is an advanced technology that improves hearing for people with severe or profound hearing loss in both ears. A small electronic device with attached electrodes is surgically implanted into the ear. The recipient wears an external speech processor that delivers the sound to the internal implant.

The Cochlear Implant Team at Stony Brook includes Surgeons, Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Social Workers. Members of the team are experts, who are specially trained to provide pre-operative assessments, surgery, and post-operative programming and rehabilitation. When needed, other disciplines at Stony Brook University Hospital are available during any part of the cochlear implant process.



REASONS TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Speech, Language, Swallowing, Feeding, and Voice

- Reduced communication skills after neurological injury
- Difficulty with speech production
- Difficulty with language expression and comprehension
- Problems with chewing and/or swallowing
- Change in voice or inefficient voice production
- Voice restoration after tracheostomy or laryngeal cancer surgery

Hearing and Balance

- Suspicion of hearing loss and/or auditory processing problems
- Difficulty with speech and language development
- History of ear infections
- Family history of hearing loss
- Tinnitus
- Noise exposure
- Head or ear trauma
- Ototoxic medications
- Failed hearing screening
- Vertigo

Physician referrals are necessary for certain appointments and for some insurance carriers. Please contact your insurance carrier directly for more details about your coverage.

For appointments, call (631) 444-4191



“ My son, Micah, now 6, has been seen at Stony Brook's Audiology Department since he was a baby. The entire staff is wonderful, and they work hard to put Micah at ease. From the very first visit, I was impressed by the fact that the audiologists not only listened to my concerns but also took them seriously. I appreciate that the specialists take the time to explain everything thoroughly. I can say confidently that Stony Brook was the right choice for Micah's care. ”
—Loree Bowcock



“ As a fitness instructor, my voice is crucial to my work. When I began experiencing problems, my primary care physician recommended voice therapy. I'm grateful that I chose the advanced care offered at Stony Brook. The experts there showed a keen interest in helping me to maintain my health so that I could continue with my career. I will use what I learned in voice therapy throughout my life. Thanks to Stony Brook's wonderful Speech and Hearing team I regained my voice. I can now plan to work until I'm 100! ”
—Ann Meisen

Photos by Media Services.