

# Vestibular Schwannoma (Acoustic Neuroma)

## What is a vestibular schwannoma or acoustic neuroma?

- A vestibular schwannoma is a growth on the nerve that goes from the ear to the brain
- Vestibular schwannomas are more common in adults than children.
- They usually happen in just 1 ear, but a few people get them in both ears.

## What are the symptoms of a vestibular schwannoma? The symptoms include:

- Hearing loss
- Tinnitus
- Balance problems when walking
- A feeling of tilting to 1 side
- Face symptoms – These can include:
  - Numbness
  - Pain
  - Trouble moving part of the face

## Is there a test for vestibular schwannoma?

- A test called an “audiogram” or hearing test
- Imaging tests, such as MRI or CT scans

## How is a vestibular schwannoma treated?

- Surgery – Taking out the vestibular schwannoma can help you keep the hearing you still have. But if you already lost some hearing, surgery will not usually bring it back.
- Radiation
- Watchful waiting

A vestibular schwannoma can come back after surgery or radiation. If you have either of these treatments, you will probably have an MRI or CT every year for up to 10 years. These imaging tests can show if the vestibular schwannoma is coming back

