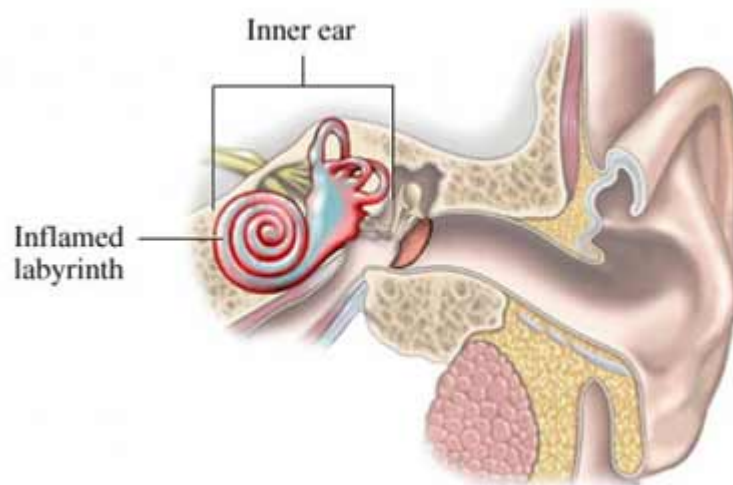


## Labyrinthitis

### What is Labyrinthitis?

Labyrinthitis is an inflammation of the membranous labyrinth of the inner ear. It can affect one or both ears.



### What causes Labyrinthitis?

The causes of labyrinthitis include:

- Infection – bacterial, viral, fungal
- Autoimmune disease – Wegener’s Granulomatosis, Cogan’s Syndrome
- Ototoxic drugs -gentamycin, ASA, diuretics, chemotherapy drugs
- Meniere’s disease
- Idiopathic causes



## **What are the symptoms of Labyrinthitis?**

Symptoms of Labyrinthitis typically include loss of balance (vertigo), nystagmus (involuntary eye movement), nausea, hearing loss, tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and mild headaches.

## **How is Labyrinthitis diagnosed?**

In order to diagnose Labyrinthitis, the following tests may be undertaken: Full audiometric assessment, videonystagmography (VNG), auditory brainstem response (ABR), and /or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

## **How is Labyrinthitis treated?**

The treatment of Labyrinthitis is dependent on the cause:

- Infection:
  - \*Bacterial: antibiotics to eradicate the underlying infection
  - \*Viral: corticosteroids in early stages to prevent permanent damage to the inner ear
- Autoimmune disease: corticosteroids and/or immunosuppressive medications
- Ototoxic drugs: reduce dosage and/or switch medications if possible
- Meniere's disease: medication to help alleviate nausea and symptoms of vertigo
- Idiopathic: monitor and/or medication to alleviate vertigo and nausea

## Labyrinthitis

The Hearing Loss Clinic

