

## **8. Hearing is critical to process speech.**



### **Delaying treatment for hearing loss may result in dementia.**

Hearing areas of the brain shrink in age-related hearing loss and significantly affect the person's ability to process sound and understand speech.

In hearing loss, brain regions used for higher level thinking compensate for weaker areas and are not available to do their primary job. Memory and judgement may be affected.

Restoring hearing too late may result in the loss of ability to comprehend even after hearing sound is restored. Isolation and a higher risk for dementia occurs.