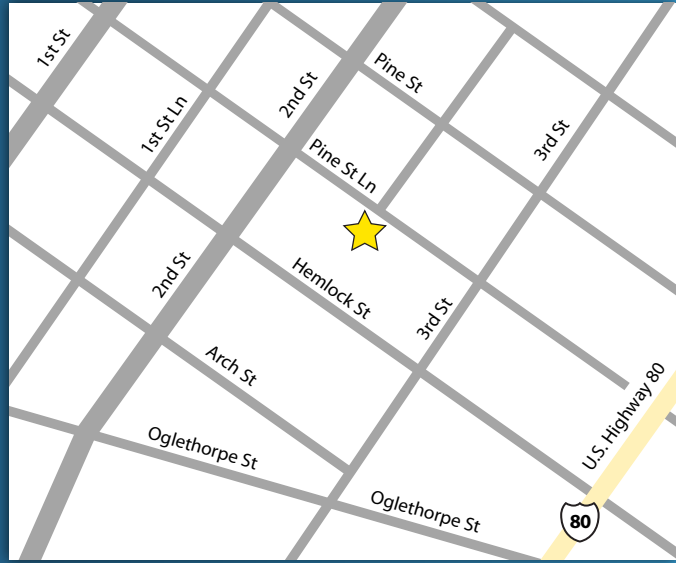




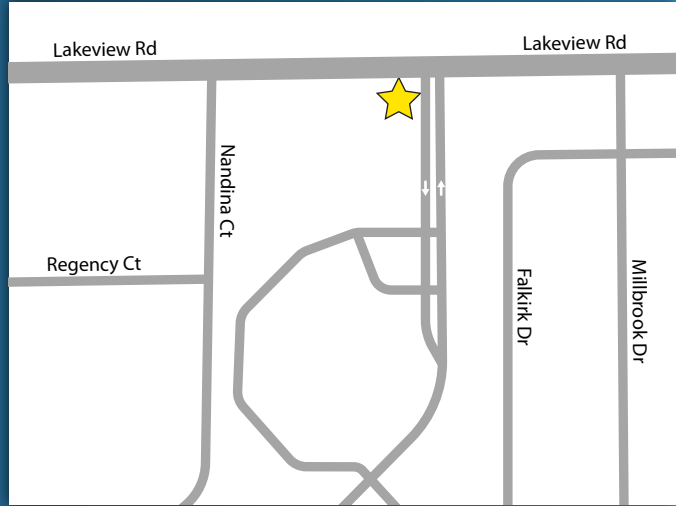
About the ENT Center of Central Georgia

The ENT Center of Central Georgia brings together the very best physicians and support staff dedicated to providing you an exceptional patient experience. In our pursuit to provide excellence in medical treatment, we listen to our patients and focus on your symptoms. We develop individualized treatment plans based on your unique needs and treat you like we would a family member. Whether you have hearing problems, allergies, dizziness, sinus infections, snoring, or any other ear, nose, and throat related problem, we can help.

For more information, contact one of the elite health care professionals at The ENT Center of Central Georgia today: 1-800-253-8953



Macon Office
540 Hemlock Street
Macon, GA 31210
Phone: (478) 743-8953
Fax: (478) 743-1963



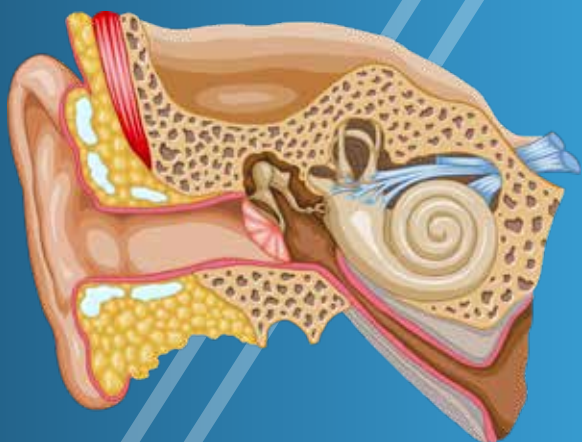
Warner Robins Office
6084 Lakeview Road
Warner Robins, GA 31088
Phone: (478) 333-2235
Fax: (478) 333-2238

The ENT Center of Central Georgia

Our Doctors Explain: MÉNIÈRE'S DISEASE



www.theentcenter.com



What Is Ménière's Disease?

Ménière's disease is an inner ear disorder that causes fluctuating hearing loss, tinnitus, vertigo and fullness or pressure in the ear. It is the result of excess fluid in the inner ear. There is no cure for Ménière's disease, but various strategies can help you manage your symptoms.

The exact cause of Ménière's disease is unknown. It is believed to be associated with a dysfunction of the endolymphatic sac, an organ responsible for regulating the volume and pressure of fluid in the inner ear. Various theories point to circulation disorders, viral infections, head trauma, allergies, migraines and obstructions of the ear canal as possible causes.

It is estimated that Ménière's disease affects about one out of every 1,000 people, with most patients between the ages of 40 and 60.

What Are the Symptoms of Ménière's Disease?

People with Ménière's disease suffer progressive attacks that are often characterized by warning signs in advance. These include loss of balance, dizziness, headache, increased hearing loss and tinnitus, noise sensitivity and pressure in the ear.

During the attack, you may experience episodes of severe vertigo, fluctuating hearing loss, fullness in the ear, and tinnitus. These symptoms may be accompanied by anxiety, blurry vision, nausea, vomiting, trembling, rapid pulse and diarrhea.

Afterward, exhaustion often sets in, leading to an increased need for sleep. Attacks may be brief, lasting for as little as 20 minutes, or may persist for as long as 24 hours. Their frequency is unpredictable and sporadic; they may occur several times a week, or as little as once every few years.

Due to the unpredictable nature of this disease, it's impossible to tell just how much it will affect your life.

How Is Ménière's Disease Diagnosed?

Because the symptoms of Ménière's disease resemble those associated with other conditions, we will need to perform hearing and balance tests in order to make a diagnosis. An audiogram will show hearing loss in the low tones, a key indicator of Ménière's disease. In some cases, imaging scans or blood tests are ordered.



How Is Ménière's Disease Treated?

Medical options for treating Ménière's include motion sickness and anti-nausea medications, diuretics, an antibiotic called Gentamycin, and oral or injectable steroids. These, coupled with a low-sodium diet, can help prevent dizziness or reduce the severity of attacks. Other lifestyle remedies include limiting caffeine, alcohol, chocolate and monosodium glutamate from your diet; drinking six to eight glasses of water per day; quitting smoking; avoiding allergens; and reducing stress and anxiety.

When medications don't work, you may benefit from vestibular rehabilitation exercises to improve balance. Hearing aids will help treat hearing loss associated with Ménière's.

Individuals who experience severe attacks and are unable to find relief from other treatments may have success with surgery. Procedures that have proven effective include an endolymphatic sac procedure to drain fluid from the inner ear, a vestibular nerve section to cut the nerve that connects the ear and brain to eliminate dizziness and preserve hearing, and a labyrinthectomy to control dizziness.