



**Kevin A. O'Connell, MD**, Ear, Nose, Throat and Allergy physician, is specifically trained to provide diagnostic and treatment services for the following conditions:

Adenoid Problems	Nose Bleeds
Allergies	Sinus Problems
Balance Problems	Plugged Ears
Bell's Palsy	Swallowing Problems
Cancer	Swimmer's Ear
(Mouth, Throat, Head, Neck)	Tinnitus
Deafness	(Ringing in the ears)
Earache	Tonsillitis
Ear Infections	Vertigo
Hearing Loss	Vocal Disorders

*Appointments may be made by calling:*

**585-786-1555**

## AN INTRODUCTION TO EAR, NOSE & THROAT (OTOLARYNGOLOGY)



**Kevin A. O'Connell, MD**  
*Ear, Nose, Throat and Allergist*

  
Wyoming County Community Health System

  
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# AN INTRODUCTION TO EAR, NOSE & THROAT (OTOLARYNGOLOGY)

**Otolaryngologists** are physicians trained in the medical and surgical treatment of the ear, nose, and throat (ENT), as well as related structures of the head and neck.

## JUST CALL ME AN ENT

Otolaryngologists are commonly referred to as an ENT, a medical specialist almost every person will need to see sooner or later. Their special skills include diagnosing and managing diseases of the sinuses, larynx (voice box), oral cavity, upper pharynx (mouth/throat), and structures of the neck and face.

## PROBLEMS WITH THE EARS

Hearing loss affects one in ten Americans. The unique domain of ENT physicians is the treatment of ear disorders. They are trained in both the medical and surgical treatment of hearing loss, ear infections, balance issues, ear noise (tinnitus), nerve pain, swimmer's ear, and facial and cranial nerve disorders. They treat ear trauma and ear disease, including cancer and nerve pathway disorders, which affect hearing and balance. If you have persistent ear, face, or neck pain, you need an ENT.

## PROBLEMS WITH THE NOSE

35 million people develop chronic sinusitis each year, making it one of the most common health complaints in America. Care of the nasal cavity and sinuses is one of the primary skills of an ENT. Management of the nasal area includes allergies and sense of smell. People whose sense of smell is being diminished or who are experiencing nose bleeds can find help by consulting an ENT physician.



## PROBLEMS WITH ALLERGIES

ENT physicians are often trained as an allergist, a physician specially equipped to diagnose, treat and manage allergies, asthma and certain immunologic conditions. Allergies are among the most common chronic conditions, causing symptoms ranging from mild discomfort to occasional life-threatening allergic reactions.

Allergic reactions begin in the immune system, which protects us from invading organisms that can cause illness. If you have an allergy, your immune system mistakes an otherwise harmless substance as an invader. This substance is called an allergen. A number of different allergens are responsible for allergic reactions. The most common include pollen, dust, food, insect stings, animal dander, mold, medications and latex. The immune system overreacts to the allergen and releases histamine and other chemicals, causing an allergic reaction. An allergic reaction typically triggers symptoms in the nose, lungs, throat, sinuses, ears, stomach lining or on the skin.

For some people, allergies can also trigger symptoms of asthma, a chronic disease involving the airways in the lungs, which are inflamed. When something triggers this, it becomes more difficult for air to move in and out of the lungs, causing symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and/or chest tightness. In the most serious of cases, a life-threatening reaction called anaphylaxis can occur.