

Mayo Clinic Medical Edge

What Causes Smell and Taste Loss?

1:00

Log

Audio

Intro with music	GIVING YOU THE EDGE ON HEALTHY LIVING, HERE'S MAYO CLINIC'S MEDICAL EDGE.
	FOOD. IT'S A NECESSITY THAT GIVES US THE NUTRIENTS THAT KEEP US GOING. BUT IT'S THE AROMA AND FLAVOR THAT REALLY MAKE EATING AN ENJOYABLE PART OF LIFE. UNFORTUNATELY...
Joseph Sirven, M.D.	"THE LOSS OF TASTE AND SMELL, PARTICULARLY IN OLDER ADULTS IS EXTRAORDINARILY COMMON."
	WHILE AGE RELATED LOSS OF SMELL AND TASTE IS USUALLY GRADUAL, DR. JOSEPH SIRVEN, A MAYO CLINIC NEUROLOGIST SAYS THERE ARE ALSO THINGS THAT CAN CAUSE A QUICK AND DRAMATIC LOSS.

Dr. Sirven	“CERTAIN MEDICATIONS, CERTAIN TREATMENTS, PARTICULARLY RADIATION CAN REALLY KNOCK OUT THE SENSE OF TASTE AND SMELL. A GOOD KNOCK ON THE HEAD... YOU CAN FIND A VERY SUDDEN DIMINISHMENT IN YOUR LOSS OF SMELL.”
	ALLERGIES AND INFECTIONS CAN HAVE THE SAME AFFECT. WHILE THERE’S NOT MUCH WE CAN DO TO HELP WITH THE AGE RELATED LOSS, SOME OF THESE OTHER CAUSES MAY BE ABLE TO BE REVERSED.
	FOR MORE INFORMATION, TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR VISIT MAYOCLINIC.ORG . I’M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.