

# Inner ear

The inner [ear](#) (internal ear, auris interna) is the innermost part of the vertebrate ear. In vertebrates, the inner ear is mainly responsible for sound detection and balance.

In mammals, it consists of the bony labyrinth, a hollow cavity in the temporal bone of the skull with a system of passages comprising two main functional parts:

The [cochlea](#).

The vestibular system, dedicated to balance

The inner ear is found in all vertebrates, with substantial variations in form and function. The inner ear is innervated by the eighth cranial nerve in all vertebrates.

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A [vestibular schwannoma](#) is a benign, usually slow-growing tumor that develops from the balance and hearing nerves supplying the [inner ear](#).

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